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'ARAFAT DELIVERS PALESTINE SOLIDARITY DAY SPEECH IN BEIRUT

NC292130Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 29 Nov 78 NC

[Speech delivered by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people at Beirut Arab University; date not given--recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers, in the name of our Palestinian people; in the name of the heroic, struggling Palestinian revolutionaries; in the name of our martyrs, our wounds, our patient and unyielding detainees in the prisons of Israeli occupation; in the name of our people who are living under the yoke of the Israeli occupation; in the name of all these, I extend thanks and appreciation to UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim [applause] and the committee of 23 which has grown from the United Nations and participated in this splendid and glorious day.

In the name of my steadfast, heroic and great people, I tell our friends--the nonalined states, the socialist group led by the friendly Soviet Union [applause], the African states and the Islamic states which support our people's struggle--to the friendly states which support our people's struggle I say: Thank you from the bottom of the hearts of this people--the people who have made a decision that there will be no stability or peace in this Arab area if the rights of the Palestinian people are overlooked, that genuine, just peace can only come through the Palestinian revolution and the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland so they can participate alongside the whole world and all mankind in building a human civilization based on just peace, not false peace brought about by As-Sadat, Begin and Carter at Blair House and Camp David.

We seek just, genuine and stable peace in the Middle East. We seek just, genuine and true peace, not the false peace which they are trying to establish through the conspiracy of Camp David and the conspiracy of Blair House. However, we tell them in the name of this people, in the name of the heroes, in the name of the steadfast ones in the occupied territories that the autonomy plot will not be implemented except over the dead bodies of the Palestinian people. [applause]

Let them draw up whatever plans they like. [Words indistinct] there is a danger in this area. The danger in this area is the danger of your Arab nation. This land is Arab, Arab, Arab, whether Begin likes it or not, whether Carter likes it or not or whether their agent As-Sadat likes it or not. This land is Arab, Arab, Arab. [applause]

Brothers, what has the Palestinian revolution done? The Palestinian revolution has done something important. It turned this people from refugees into revolutionaries, from a figure in the United Nations, in the lobbies of the United Nations, in the fields of UNRWA into a [word indistinct] carrying rifles. Our people will continue to carry rifles and the Palestinian flag, which is the Arab flag. It is not a coincidence that the flag of the Palestinian revolution is the flag of the Arab revolution.

However, I say that the Palestinian people, the revolutionaries in the Palestinian revolution--when I say revolutionaries in the Palestinian revolution, I mean what I say--I mean that in the Palestinian revolution there are heroes like Walid Junblatt, Tawfiq Sultan, Kamal Shatila, Muhammad Samir, Ahmad al-Khatib [applause], Nadim 'Abd as-Samad, and Kamal Ahmad who stood against As-Sadat in the People's Assembly and told him: This is treason. This is a plot. [applause] When I say the revolutionaries in the Palestinian revolution, I mean it is these revolutionaries who will raise the flag of the Palestinian revolution, which is the flag of the Arab nation and the flag of the Arab revolution. It is these Palestinian revolutionaries who will raise our flag, whether Begin likes it or not, whether Carter likes it or not, and whether their agent As-Sadat likes it or not. This flag shall be raised over Jerusalem, Gaza, Haifa, the Negev, Galilee and over every part of the Palestinian soil. [applause]

Brothers, during the past 24 hours, I received letters from friends in whose friendship and solidarity with the Palestinian revolution I take pride. Last night I received a message from Comrade Leonid Brezhnev [applause] supporting the Palestinian revolution, the Palestinian people and the rights of the Palestinian people. I have also received messages from other friends like Comrade Honecker and Comrade Zhivkov, and other colleagues who firmly support the Palestinian revolution and who strongly support the Palestinian people's rights--their right to return, self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

When the world celebrates this day with us, what does it mean? It means that the world with all its progressive, national and democratic forces stands with the Palestinian people against the imperialist, Zionist, colonialist plot. It means that these friends and allies are saying: We are with the Palestinian people. It means that it is a sign auguring victory. It means that independence will be achieved, that victory will be achieved and that the democratic Palestinian state will be established. It means that the free, progressive, revolutionary and democratic people of the world say no to the plot and yes to national independence, yes to the Palestinian people, and yes to the rights of the Palestinian people until victory.

Brothers, the plot is multifacted and enormous. When we talk about this plot to which our Palestinian people are subjected, we remember that historically the Palestinian people have been the victims of this plot, which began in 1897 when the first world Zionist conference was held in Basel. That date marks the first discovery of oil in our Arab countries--in Mosul. It was in 1897. Therefore, we must understand the relationship of what is taking place in our Palestine and what is now happening to our other people--the heroic Lebanese people who are in cohesion and united with the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people. There is a plot. The plot which began in Palestine is now expanding to Lebanon. The pillars of this plot are the Zionist forces, the American Central intelligence Agency and those who are cooperating with it in Lebanon. They are trying to (?create) a Zionist home in a different from in Lebanon. However, I say--if brother Walid Junblatt permits me to say so--in the name of the Lebanese National Movement, in the name of the Lebanese National Front, in the name of the Arab Army of Lebanon, that this plot will not succeed, will not succeed, will not succeed, will not succeed. [applause]

Brothers, Begin, Carter and their agent As-Sadat thought they could subjugate the Arab area through their plot. However, the Syrian-Iraqi meeting and what has happened through the Syrian-Iraqi-Palestinian meeting and what has happened through the Syrian-Iraqi-Palestinian-National Lebanese meeting and what has happened through the Syrian-Iraqi-Palestinian-National Lebanese meeting with the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and with all the honest forces in the Arab nation at the Baghdad conference and at the Steadfastness and confrontation conferences is the natural reply to this plot: that this land is Arab and will continue to be Arab and that these masses will advance to raise the head of the Arab nation. This is a revolution until victory!

'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS

JN281439Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1358 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 November--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has received a letter from the Soviet leaders. The letter was delivered to 'Arafat last night by Soviet ambassador in Beirut Aleksandr Soldatov.

The Palestinian news agency reports that the letter includes the Soviet Union's stand on current Arab and international developments.

The agency also said that 'Arafat met last night with the Polish ambassador in Beirut and discussed Polish-Palestinian relations with him.

Message From GDR's Honecker

NC281957Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 28 Nov 78 NC

[Text] At noon today brother Commander Abu 'Ammar received the GDR ambassador to Lebanon. The ambassador gave him a message of solidarity on the occasion of the day of international solidarity with the Palestinian cause. The message is from Comrade Erich Honecker, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] and chairman of the State Council.

The message emphasizes the unshakable solidarity of the SED Central Committee, the State Council and the GDR people with the just struggle being waged by the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

The message asserts that the dangerous policy of separate solutions has created a complex situation for the Arab people with regard to achieving a just and lasting solution to the Middle East problem.

Comrade Honecker concludes his message by reaffirming the principled stand of the GDR--that a just and permanent solution to the Middle East problem can be achieved only through the solution of the Palestinian issue.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS MAKE STATEMENTS ON SOLIDARITY DAY

Ratib in Iraq

JN281608Y Baghdad INA in English 15[illegible] GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Nov 28, INA--Comrade Hajj Ratib, member of the Political Committee of the Palestine revolution in Iraq, said here today that the Palestinian rifle is the decisive factor to draw world public attention on the justness of the Palestinian struggle for implementing national objectives and self-determination on its national soil.

This was contained in a statement to INA on the world solidarity day with the Arab Palestinian people which was adopted by the UN General assembly.

The day, coinciding tomorrow, marks the same day in which the United Nations issued its resolution on the partition of Palestine, the establishment of the Zionist entity, and deporting one million Palestinians out of their legitimate lands.

Comrade Ratib pointed out that the political balance has been changed within the United Nations in favour of world liberation movements. The new balance has resulted in re-adjusting previously adopted resolutions.

"The Palestinian revolution, through its massive sacrifices, has gained momentum and support the world over," he added.

Comrade Ratib stressed that the new available conditions and circumstances provided by the joint national action charter between Iraq and Syria shall create a military atmosphere capable of commencing a pan-Arab struggle against the Zionist occupation along the path of liberating the whole of the Palestine soil and the creation of the Palestinian state.

Representatives in Gulf

JN291127Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0925 GMT 29 Nov 78 JN

[Excerpts] Gulf capitals, 29 November--Salim az-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, the PLO representative in Kuwait and the Arab Gulf, pointed out here today that the international resolution observing 29 November as an international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people represents a protest against the new plot aimed at dismembering the Palestinian people and obliterating their just cause.

Abu al-Adib expressed the hope that this step will be a starting point for the revival of the Palestinian cause in the United Nations. He said: What took place at Camp David and Blair House constitutes an international theft of the peoples' issues because these issues have been removed from the UN premises.

He added that the Palestinian people are now fully aware of the fact that all U.S. sentiments, which were considered by most of the Arab countries as sincere, are merely deceitful mirages. The United States is highly interested in keeping Israel because it considers Israel as a means of pressure on the Arab regimes so as to be able to exploit these regimes' natural resources and important geographical locations.

Abu al-Adib asserted that the ninth summit conference in Baghdad was a good starting point for the emergence of the Arabs from protracted disputes. He said the wagering of the imperialists that the Arab fronts will collapse as a result of Egypt's deviation from the front of confrontation has failed thanks to Arab vigilance.

The Palestinian official expects the emergence of a solid front in the Arab area. He said that this front would enjoy a geographical depth and direct contacts with the occupied territories if intentions are sincere and if the Baghdad resolutions are implemented. He expressed the hope that the front will be capable of confronting any new aggression against the Arab nation.

The PLO representative called on the Arab people to pursue the policy of steadfastness and sacrifice so as to thwart the new plan aimed at subjugating the Arab world and forcing it to accept a fait accompli and to submit to the fake self-rule plan.

In Manama, Wafa Nabhan, director of the PLO office in Bahrain, has asserted that the principal objective of the Palestinian revolution is to set up a democratic state in Palestine made up of Moslems, Christians and Jews. He said: We are not against Judaism as a religion; rather we are against Zionism as a political party. He added: This objective will never permit us from accepting what we can achieve in stages.

The PLO official in Bahrain said this at a press conference in Manama today on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, which is celebrated today, 29 November, and which is also the anniversary of the issuance of the resolution on the partitioning of Palestine in 1947. He said this is the first time in the history of the Palestinian struggle that the world peoples are announcing their solidarity with these people under the aegis of the United Nations.

In Doha, Zuhayr Muhsin, head of the PLO Military Department, spoke about the dialog that recently took place between Palestinian officials and Phalangist leader Pierre al-Jumayyil. He said that any contacts with the leaders of the Lebanese Front cannot be viewed as having good intentions. Also, any attempts to conclude new agreements with parties other than the legitimate Lebanese authorities are aimed at entrenching the terrorist alternatives to the legitimate authorities.

Muhsin described the Iraqi-Syrian meeting as suprising and exciting. He said this meeting was a move completely different from any previous political documents between any two Arab countries. It constituted a turning point in the course of events in the Arab world.

Commenting on the Jordan-Palestinian dialog, Muhsin said that what concerns the PLO is for Jordan to reject the Camp David agreements, any cooperation with Israel, and any cooperation with the Egyptian Government in implementing the self-rule plan in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He added that the PLO is also concerned with Jordan's commitment to the Rabat resolutions.

'ARAFAT GIVES INTERVIEW TO LEBANESE MAGAZINE

NC290945Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1545 GMT 28 Nov 78 NC

[Text] of interview granted by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to unidentified correspondent of Lebanese magazine AL-USBU' AL 'ARABI--date and venue unspecified; read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Question: How do you view the dialog reportedly started between the Palestinians and some leaders of the Lebanese Front, albeit unofficially? What future or hopes are there in this respect?

Answer: Let us first view matters in their proper perspective. My confidence in brothers Walid al-Khalidi and Hasib as-Sabbagh [two Palestinians who had meetings with Lebanese Front leaders] does not prevent me from saying that what has happened cannot be considered a Lebanese-Palestinian dialog. It was a sincere personal initiative by the two men, meant as a sounding out. The nature of the relations of the two men with the various sides helped them make the move. The dialog that has taken place, therefore, still lacks the main necessary background. We regret the uproar that has resulted from it. We consider a Lebanese-Palestinian dialog as a necessity, but it must come after, not before, an internal Lebanese dialog.

Questions: It has been noted that you do not visit the [Lebanese] presidential palace, unlike brother Abu Iyad, for example, who frequently goes there and who reportedly is a personal friend of President Sarkis. Are there any political or personal reasons why you do not visit the palace?

Answer: I met with President Sarkis several times during the Baghdad conference. The truth is that the security situation around B'abda Palace precludes such meetings.

Question: Still on the Lebanese issue, we recall that the PLO has always emphasized its commitment to implementing the agreements concluded with the Lebanese Government. What is delaying this implementation?

Answer: Who said that we are putting off implementing them?

Question: You may not be the cause of the delay. The Lebanese authorities may be behind the postponement, but why?

Answer: The truth is that we have honored most of our commitments. We took the arms out of the towns, we sent some of our forces out of Lebanon, we reopened the roads and removed the armed manifestations. Furthermore, the establishments which were under our control during the fighting were handed over to the authorities. This includes the Central Bank.

Thus, since the Riyadh summit conference, the Cairo summit and the Shtawrah agreement, we have been honoring our share of the commitments. We cannot say that we have carried out what is required of us 100 percent, but we have definitely implemented a very big part of the agreements, as much as 90 percent in some cases.

We are willing to complete the remaining 10 percent, along with our brothers the [Lebanese] authorities. Evidence of our commitment can be found in the existing spirit of cooperation between us and the UN forces in the south. There are no problems between us and them.

We do not find others so committed, however. The Riyadh resolutions, for example, stipulate that all the southern roads must be open. I ask: Are all the roads open to the Palestinian revolution? For example, the road between our forces in Al-'Urqub and our other forces in the south is closed in the area of Al-Khardali Bridge.

Question: I would like to continue questions about the south for a while. How was it that you let the Lebanese Army enter the south, even though it is still being formed? Many observations have been made about the army's present status by many sides.

Answer: Our stand has been clear from the very beginning and we conveyed it frankly to President Sarkis and Prime Minister al-Huss. We said: Do not push the Lebanese Army to this dangerous adventure against the militias led by Haddad and Shidyaq who are fully, flagrantly and officially supported by Israel. Do not expose the army to this danger while it is still weak. They said: We have international guarantees, and particularly U.S. guarantees, that will enable the army to reach the borders.

I personally told them that I do not trust U.S. promises because as a Palestinian I have suffered bitterly as result of generous U.S. promises. However, they were not convinced. The result was that the army unit sent to the south stopped in Kawkabah and was abandoned by a large number of its members after it came under shelling.

There were two trends within the command of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. One favored facilitating the mission of the army and its return to the south, and the other was against it. The first trend won and we decided that we must provide the necessary facilities lest it be said that we were obstructing the army's movement. The obstruction came from others in the south.

Question: Waldheim recently called for a return to Geneva and the participation of the PLO [in the negotiations]. Meanwhile, the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations are facing more obstacles. Is there any relationship between the UN secretary general's call and these obstacles?

Answer: My view is that the difficulties they are talking about are part of the scenario we are now witnessing. They are theatrical obstacles similar, to a large extent, to the obstacles that preceded the Camp David agreements. There is a U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian agreement to sign. It is simply a matter of timing. I believe that the success of the Baghdad conference has naturally affected U.S. calculations, bearing in mind that the Egyptian calculations are totally subject to U.S. domination. This shows the subservience of the Egyptian regime.

Question: Since the Baghdad summit conference there has been talk about the possibility of deploying Palestinian army units in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. How serious is this possibility?

Answer: If this refers to the Palestinian military forces, this was the situation even before the Baghdad conference.

Question: In our question we were also referring to the matter of the redistribution of the Palestinian army on the Jordanian front.

Answer: The deployment of the Palestinian army is subject to what is decided by the Palestinian Military Command, and not to any calculations. The dialog we have begun with Jordan will, if successful, enable the command to make a decision about intensifying our presence in Jordan.

Question: To go back to the dialog with Jordan, can we say that this dialog started during the recent Damascus summit conference of the steadfastness front or, to be specific, when you and Libyan Chairman Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi visited Amman?

Answer: Actually, the dialog with Jordan dates to before the steadfastness summit conference. There were Syrian, Algerian, Libyan, Saudi, Kuwaiti and Moroccan attempts to revive the talks when they stopped.

The Baghdad conference provided an opportunity for another attempt. King Husayn spoke in a positive spirit; I spoke similarly. The conference chairman, President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, then replied to our speeches, and there was Arab unanimity that a new Jordan-Palestinian page must be opened. So we held consultations on the periphery of the conference and we agreed that a Palestinian delegation would resume the dialog when King Husayn returns from his European tour. The delegation went to Amman on Saturday and we hope it will succeed.

Question: The Arab summit conferences emphasized the independence of the Palestinian revolution's movements and decision-making. Is this independence still possible after the recent Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement?

Answer: It has in fact become stronger.

Question: There were outstanding issues, now set aside, between you and the Iraqi regime. Have these issues been resolved?

Answer: At this historic point in the life of the Arab nation we must rise to the level of the challenges of the time. It is true that there were problems between us and our Iraqi brothers, but we will not stop at these trivialities; we have a major confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

Question: Did you play a role in the recent Iraqi-Syrian rapprochement and how does this rapprochement positively affect the future of the Palestinian revolution?

Answer: I wish I had played a part in this rapprochement. The truth is that I played no part in it. I made attempts in the past when my relations with the Iraqi brothers were good. The initiative in what has happened came from President Hafiz al-Asad, who sent an envoy with a message for the Iraqi president, whose response was magnificent. The exit of the Egyptian regime from the battle after Camp David resulted in a strategic imbalance.

This imbalance must be rectified in two ways: Through the resources and capabilities of the Arab nation and, secondly, through our international friendships. By our international friendships I mean the Arab relations with the socialist states headed by the Soviet Union. It was with Soviet arms that we triumphed and it is with Soviet arms that we will triumph again. The Americans and the West have not given us arms to deal with the supremacy of their own weapons: We are fighting U.S. weapons and U.S. experts in Israel. The Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement is the cornerstone in restoring the strategic balance to what it was before Egypt's exit. I do not mean that this balance has been restored 100 percent, because I do not want to indulge in overoptimism. There is no doubt that the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement directly contributed to the success of the Baghdad conference. I repeat here that the Palestinian revolution, while not directly concerned with Syrian-Iraqi unity, considers itself a natural extension of this unity.

Question: The mention of Soviet arms takes us back to Egypt again. The Egyptian president says that his request for Soviet arms was not granted. The man in the street is asking how could As-Sadat change from leader of the October War to capitulationist. Is it true that Soviet weapons were withheld from Egypt so that it was unable to carry on the battle?

Answer: I do not want to go into the October War, but I do ask why the Egyptian Army stopped 10 kilometers from the canal and why did it go in a straight line? It is strange because in the history of all wars there is no strategic theory advocating advance in a straight line.

Question: The Egyptian president always says that he invited you to participate in the fighting but that you failed to do so.

Answer: We did fight on the Sinai front. The 'Ayn Jalut Brigade lost half its men on that front. I said that I do not want to go into the details of the October War but I refer you to the memoirs of Ash-Shadhili [Egyptian chief of staff during the October War]. These memoirs clearly indicate in more than one place what happened. Ash-Shadhili confirms that there was a basic change in the Egyptian political position and this change was tantamount to a real coup. It may be premature to reveal everything, but the Arab nation will ultimately know about the change that has occurred--a change constituting a total Egyptian concession and submission to the U.S.-Israeli terms. The INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE has clearly asked: Who in Egypt supports the Camp David agreements? This question reflects apprehension in U.S. circles. The recent conflicts inside Egypt were evident in the sudden changes in the military commands. Al-Jamasi [former war minister] says openly: I do not know why I was dismissed. Changes are thus occuring in Egypt and they are bound to supply the answer to all that has happened. My faith in the Egyptian people is great and boundless. As for Soviet weapons, I believe that casting doubt on Soviet weapons is (?futile). The victories of the October War were scored with Soviet weapons and it was with Soviet weapons that we fought the 8-day war in southern Lebanon.

Question: As-Sadat says that they withheld arms from him.

Answer: There is nothing of this in my information. My information is correct.

Question: Who supports the Camp David agreements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

Answer: The stand of our kin in the occupied territory was a surprise to Carter, Begin and As-Sadat--a surprise for As-Sadat first, Begin second and Carter third. They had calculated that the Palestinians living in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Kuwait would reject the Camp David agreements, but that it would be possible to pacify the Palestinians living in the occupied territory. They had imagined that they could offer autonomy to 1.1 million Palestinians who constitute one-quarter of the Palestinians, even if three-quarters of the Palestinians rejected the autonomy.

Question: We know that the archenemy of the Palestinian revolution is Israel. For a time resistance was diverted from this enemy while peripheral battles were fought. However, we notice that the Palestinian struggle has escalated at home recently, even in Galilee. Are we witnessing an era of awakening at home after the revolution has overcome attempts to contain it abroad?

Answer: Yes, we adopted a clear and explicit decision to escalate military operations in the occupied territory and to escalate our militant activities through the various political, popular, economic, student and military forms of struggle.

Regarding the peripheral battles, this is true. I would like to report a significant incident. I visited President Tito on 5 December 1974. The Yugoslav president told me: 4 days ago I received Kissinger, who told me frankly that the Rabat summit conference resolutions had confused U.S. calculations in the Middle East.

On my return to the Arab area I reported this incident to some of my brothers. I wish to point out that Ma'ruf Sa'd was killed in Sidon on 21 February 1975--about 2 and 1/2 months after this incident--and the problems began. Now some U.S. intelligence officers, as they have always done, are writing memorandums and recording the efforts they have made in Lebanon. These efforts have been joint U.S.-Israel efforts. When Menahem Begin says that Israel spent 1 billion pounds last year alone, this talk indicates many things.

What happened in Lebanon also happened in Amman in 1970. You may remember that during the Amman events, President Nixon was onboard the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga in the Mediterranean, directing the battles himself, while Yitzhak Rabin was meeting with the members of the U.S. National Security Council.

The message which Nixon sent from aboard the aircraft carrier to the members of the U.S. Congress is clear and reveals the nature of the campaign launched against us in Jordan.

Question: Following the events in Afghanistan, Iran and the Horn of Africa, is there a danger of further Soviet penetration in the Gulf area?

Answer: I am not a friend of the United States to worry about such penetration. I have no part in the international game to share concern for the U.S. spheres of influence. All that concerns me is the future of our revolution and the future of our Arab nation. I believe that the Arab nation must know how to benefit from the changes that have taken place and are taking place in its favor. More than ever before we are called upon to use these changes in the service of our interests.

SAUDI ARABIA

INFORMATION MINISTER AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

LD2919447 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The kingdom has again declared its total stand on the side of the Palestinian people and its absolute support for their struggle for the restoration of their full rights. This came in a statement made tonight by Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, minister of information, on the occasion of the international day for solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Dr Yamani said this support represents one of the basic pillars of the clear and firm policy of the kingdom and that this is derived from the kingdom's conviction that the Palestinian people must obtain their full rights. The minister of information emphasized the kingdom's determination to support the Palestinian just cause and enable the Palestinian Moslem people to retrieve all their legitimate rights.

The minister of information said that the UN resolution to devote this day for solidarity with the Palestinians represents a pulse of life in the world human conscience which makes the Palestinian people, who have been dispersed for many years, feel that the world conscience stands by and feels the justice of their cause.

YEMEN--PDRY

YAR PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

LD2918547 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1238 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Latif 'Ali 'Abdallah, member of the People's Constituent Assembly in the northern part of the homeland and chairman of the Financial and Administrative Reform Council in Taizz region, held a press conference in Aden this morning to give an account of the situation in the northern part of the homeland. Replying to questions by journalists, he described the contradictory political and social situation, the bad economic situation, the deterioration of the standard of living and the increasing reactionary and imperialist influence over the institutions of the San'a' ruling clique.

He declared that the aims of the 13 June corrective movement introduced by the martyr Ibrahim al-Hamdi have to all intents and purposes been rendered null and void because it runs counter to the reactionary directives of the regime. He went on to stress that the so-called Constituent Assembly is no more than a consultative council whose decisions or recommendations are ignored by the ruling clique, which regards it as a tool for implementing the regime's plans and directives. He described the perversity of the San'a' ruling clique's foreign policy in siding with the reactionary, capitulatory and servile regime in Egypt. This policy, he said, reflects the reactionary nature of the regime in the country which ignores the interests of the majority of our Yemeni people.

He condemned the oppressive terror tactics the San'a' regime directs against the honest citizens, such as the destruction of villages and the campaign of arrests and executions.

He affirmed the importance of the political, economic and social developments taking place in the southern part of the homeland, crowned by the establishment of the Yemeni Socialist Party as a powerful guarantee for the implementation of revolutionary development. It was this that evoked the feverish imperialist and reactionary campaign in San'a'. All this is helping to [word indistinct] the role of the national forces, which will, on the appointed date, end foreign reactionary interference in the affairs of the northern part of the homeland.

300 NORTHERN TRIBESMEN ARRIVE IN ADEN

LD292050Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD/EA

[Excerpt] The 300 tribal representatives who arrived yesterday in the northern province of the second governorate from Rida Province in the northern part of the homeland have condemned foreign interference in the affairs of the northern part of the homeland and expressed their rejection of the San'a' agent regime.

These tribal representatives have come to take part in the celebrations marking the 11th anniversary of national independence and to congratulate the leaders of the Yemen Socialist Party and the Democratic National Front.

BRIEFS

YAR ATTORNEY GENERAL APPOINTED--A republican decree has been issued appointing Lt Col Muhsin Muhammad Al-Ulufi as YAR attorney general. The decision is effective from the date of issue and will be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Nov 78 JN]

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL LEAVES FOR UNITED STATES

NC291535Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 29 Nov 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 November--Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil departed Cairo for Washington via Paris this afternoon. Doctor Khalil will deliver a letter from President Anwar as-Sadat to U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The letter contains Egypt's comprehensive political assessment of the progress of the peace discussions in Washington. Khalil is accompanied by Foreign Minstry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz.

Dr Mustafa Khalil declined to disclose to newsmen the contents of President as-Sadat's letter, which he is taking to U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Asked by the MENA correspondent if he is taking letters from President Anwar as-Sadat to the heads of the European states he will visit following his U.S. visit, Khalil said that he is not carrying any other letters, but that he will explain Egypt's position on the peace discussions to the heads of these states.

Statement in Paris

NC292235Y Cairo MENA is Arabic 2144 GMT 29 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Paris, 29 November--Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has affirmed that Egypt's attitude toward the method for resolving the Middle East crisis is is clear cut. This attitude is reflected in the need to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the issue and by the fact that the Egyptian-Israeli treaty is considered a part of this comprehensive settlement. Furthermore, the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip must be handled the same way the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel is handled.

Dr Mustafa Khalil made these statements on his arrival at Paris airport tonight on the first leg of the tour which will take him to the United States and six West European states.

Asked whether his mission will break the present impasse in the peace negotiations, Dr Mustafa Khalil answered: I hope that the letter will lead to this result.

Asked why he is going to Washington with a new letter from President as-Sadat to President Carter after Husni Mubarak had previously handed a letter to President Carter from President as-Sadat, and why the vice president had not continued this mission, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: "We are all working on the (?same path). When Husni Mubarak was absent for 11 days, I followed the negotiations personally and answered them in conjuction with the competent technical committees. When the vice president returned, he presided over the higher committee on the negotiations. However, the delivery of a letter is a formal matter."

Asked whether President as-Sadat will go to Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, and about the connection between this and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, the Egyptian prime minister said: "The Nobel Peace Prize is something separate from the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. President as-Sadat has won the prize and he will go to receive it, barring any unforseen work."

Dr Mustafa Khalil answered a question about the possibility of Syria joining the talks following its differences with the Soviets. He said: "Syria's attitude is in the hands of the Syrian Government and it is that government which will make a decision about this."

Regarding Egypt's commitments toward Lebanon, the prime minister said: "These commitments are clear. I mentioned them in my speech to the People's Assembly. We have called on all parties to withdraw from Lebanon."

The prime minister said that his tour, which will take him to a number of European states after Washington, is aimed at explaining Egypt's stance to these states.

Dr Mustafa Khalil arrived at Paris airport at 2100 today, Cairo time. He was met at the airport by Hafiz Isma'il, Egypt's ambassador in Paris, and by the directors of the Egyptian technical bureaus in the French capital.

The Egyptian prime minister will resume his trip to Washington tomorrow morning, Thursday, to deliver a letter from President as-Sadat to U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

EILTS TO CONVEY AS-SADAT MESSAGE TO BEGIN

NC3008l4Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Vice President Husni Mubarak this morning received the U.S. ambassador in Cairo and handed him a sealed message from President as-Sadat for Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin pertaining to the developments of the situation in relation to the peace negotiations.

The U.S. ambassador will convey the message to the Israeli prime minister today.

HASAN 'ALI DISCUSSES HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON

NC291717Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 29 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 November--Minister of Defense and War Production Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that the date of his return to Washington to resume the negotiations will be set in light of the contacts that Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil will hold during his visit to Washington.

Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali was at Cairo airport to bid farewell to Dr Mustafa Khalil. Answering newsmen's questions, Lieutenant General 'Ali said the U.S. role as a partner in the negotiations continues and has not ceased.

Asked about the return to Cairo today of some members of the Egyptian delegation to the negotiations, he said: The official members of the Egyptian delegation to the negotiations are still there; however, those who returned today are the aides whose work has ended. If the negotiations are resumed, these aides will play no role and they will not return to Washington.

Asked also whether the upcoming negotiations will be held at the level of a summit conference, Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali answered that "this is premature."

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ISSUES STATEMENT ON PALESTINE DAY

NC291801Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 29 Nov 78 NC

[Text of statement issued 29 November by Egyptian People's Assembly on the day of solidarity with Palestine]

[Text] The members of the People's Assembly, who met on the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people in the presence of a representative of the Arab League, the minister of state for foreign affairs and representative of the PLO, announce to the entire Arab nation and world parliaments that the delicate situation in the Middle East requires that all efforts be concerted to achieve a just and lasting peace in the area.

They emphasize that the solution of the Palestinian issue is considered the basis of such peace.

The members of the People's Assembly heard various statements on the historic events the Palestinian cause has experienced and political and legal analyses of the phases the Palestinian cause has gone through since the 1917 Balfour Declaration, the 1947 partitioning resolution issued by the United Nations and, finally, the Camp David agreements and the aim of achieving the Palestinian entity throughout these phases. The People's Assembly members believe that the Arab nation's duty at present is to support the sincere efforts of Egypt, which, throughout the phases of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations with the participation of the United States, has refused to conclude an agreement that does not tackle the crux and fulcrum of the problem--the cause of the Palestinian people--and establish an independent entity for the Palestinian people over their land.

Our aim is for peace to prevail in our world on the bases of justice, freedom and respect for the rights of all the conflicting sides. The unity of the Arab nation and of its struggle will constitute a real motivating force for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in our area.

On this occasion, the members of the People's Assembly salute the historic efforts of President as-Sadat and his achievements in expression of the collective Egyptian will to achieve a just and lasting peace in the area and restore the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The conferees appeal to the Arab nation, people and governments, particularly the PLO, to resort to reason in discussing the effects of the Camp David agreement and the Egyptian diplomatic moves. They also appeal to them to open an objective dialog with a view to achieving a just and lasting peace that will preserve the Arab nation's identity and guarantee the Palestinian people's national rights and aspirations.

AS-SADAT PRESIDES AT NEW GOVERNORS' OATH TAKING

NC291622Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Nov 78 NC

[Text] The new governors took the oath of office before President Anwar as-Sadat at Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah resthouse this morning. The oath-taking ceremony was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, Chief of the President's Office Hasan Kamil and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Local Government Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli.

After the governors had taken the oath, President as-Sadat held a meeting with them, during which he spoke about two basic subjects: food security and political security.

The president said that there are extensive possibilities for achievements in food security. He asked them to ease redtape preparatory to a new surge in local government.

The president set 1 January 1979 as the date for the start of a new phase during which the local governments will assume their full powers, provided all the powers of the ministries are (?transferred) next month so that these powers may be exercised with the knowledge of the governors. During this period, the local government law and its various rules will be completed.

The president emphasized the need to work in complete cooperation with the members of the people's assembly and to work through the party to mobilize the popular resources to achieve development plan targets.

The president also referred to the need to show interest in general behavior and ethics which govern dealings in every governorate and in the importance of everyone observing discipline in the performance of his duties.

President as-Sadat said that the governor in his region represents the president of the republic. There should be no obstacles which restrict his power to carry out his responsibilities in order to achieve social peace in his governorate.

His excellency pointed out the need to show great interest in confronting deviations. He said that as of 1 January 1979, all governors will have the rank of minister so that they will have full powers in the state's executive body.

His excellency added that he will hold meetings with the governors each December in order to assess the work performed in each governorate. In light of this assessment, the governor's efficiency will be evaluated.

President as-Sadat emphasized the need for regional planning so that each region will be an economic unit. He also emphasized the need for guiding spending and increasing agricultural production.

FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF ASH-SHADHILI ON SITUATION

DW280739Y Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 27 Nov 78 pp 186-197 DW

[Interview with Egyptian former chief of staff Sa'd ad-Din ash-Shadhili--date and place not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: General ash-Shadhili, when the Egyptians crossed the Suez Canal during the October 1973 war and stormed the Bar-Lev line, which was considered impregnable, you were called "Egypt's Rommel" in the Arab world and also in Western newspapers. Do you consider Rommel a model?

Ash-Shadhili: The comparison is very flattering. The Egyptian people know and venerate Field Marshal Rommel. But it is necessary to realize that Rommel's war in Africa cannot be compared to the war of 1973. Conditions were different, as were the arms and tactics.

SPIEGEL: But there is a parallel today: Rommel in the end turned against Adolf Hitler, his supreme warlord. You have broken with President as-Sadat, Egypt's leader, even though far more unequivocally than Rommel did with Hitler.

Ash-Shadhili: There may be a similarity. A soldier sees things from the military and strategic angle; politicians have a different perspective. In history politicians and soldiers have clashed time and again. Rommel and Hitler, As-Sadat and I, are but two examples.

SPIEGEL: You had your clash with As-Sadat as the chief of staff in the October 1973 war. Later you served your president as ambassador to England and Portugal. Why?

Ash-Shadhili: As-Sadat did not attack me immediately after I had left the army. This is his way of doing things; he seeks to hypnotize his adversary. First he says: "You are my friend, you are a great general," and so forth. He began attacking me only later.

SPIEGEL: It was only a few months ago, in June, that you attacked As-Sadat's policy in public for the first time. You did not even condemn his journey to Jerusalem in November 1977 as some other As-Sadat adversaries in Egypt. Does this mean that you saw positive aspects in As-Sadat's peace initiative?

Ash-Shadhili: I cannot tell. Actually I wanted to open the controversy with As-Sadat after his Jerusalem trip. When I came to Cairo at the time I found that the people behaved as though they were mesmerized by the state-controled mass media. They believed that As-Sadat's initiative would bring peace and solve all economic problems. Everybody was happy.

SPIEGEL: This was also the case in the West. Did you, as the ambassador to Lisbon, not see how much sympathy the As-Sadat initiative reaped the Arabs?

Ash-Shadhili: I would not see it that way. I believe the sympathies in the West had grown because As-Sadat made concessions to Israel. The Israelis, however, did not concede more to the Abrab than was envisaged, say, in the plan of Foreign Minister Allon in 1967. Why did we have to wage war again, wait for so many years, and then accept something which we would have rejected in 1967 even after a defeat? Israel has made no concessions, only As-Sadat has.

SPIEGEL: But As-Sadat is getting back the occupied Egyptian territory, the whole Sinai Peninsula. Viewed from Egypt's position this is something. Probably you are looking at things as a pan-Arab advocate.

Ash-Shadhili: Yes. I am first an Arab and only then an Egyptian. Think of your own history. Prior to the establishment of the German Reich there were Bavaria, Hamburg, and all the other independent countries. Just as Germany, in the past we wanted to set up a united Arab nation. It is Israel's strategy, however, to break Egypt out of the Arab nation to neutralize it and then have it easier with the other Arabs. There can be peace only with all Arabs or none at all. What As-Sadat is doing is treason against the Arab cause.

SPIEGEL: How many years should the Arabs go on waiting for a solution?

Ash-Shadhili: Years do not matter, 10 years, 20 years. What I cannot achieve now may be accompanished by the next generation. But I do not have the right to capitulate.

SPIEGEL: You accused As-Sadat in public only after he had published his memoirs. Is there any connection?

Ash-Shadhili: As-Sadat is the first ruler in modern Egyptian history--I say modern history as there was a pharaoh who did the same, who published his memoirs while still in office. Just as this pharaoh falsfied history thousand years ago, As-Sadat has falsified history.

SPIEGEL: Are you embittered by the book because As-Sadat says only negative things about you in it? He charges you with failure to recognize and repel the breakthrough of the Israeli tanks under General Sharon to the western bank of the Suez Canal. Consequently you are to blame for the change in the war to the advantage of Israel.

Ash-Shadhili: I regret having to say this: As-Sadat is a professional liar. Once he realizes that he has done something wrong he wants to hush it up--mostly by means of another lie--and that is how a chain of lies emerges.

SPIEGEL: But who really was responsible for Israel's breakthrough?

Ash-Shadhili: I might say that the one mainly responsible for the enemy's breakthrough was President as-Sadat. It all began when As-Sadat dispatched two armored divisions to the eastern bank of the Suez Canal which I had intended to leave in the west for safety. I was told that this was a political decision. When the enemy had crashed through at Deversoir I wanted to withdraw troops from the eastern bank and use them against the Israeli bridgehead. As-Sadat, however, said that this bridgehead consisted of only seven enemy tanks. He failed to see through what had developed from the breakthrough, and he prevented me from ordering some of our forces back from the east.

SPIEGEL: Could this not have in fact exerted influence on the morale of the troops that had crossed over to the east?

Ash-Shadhili: No, I was a field soldier. I was in the command headquarters for just a day or two, then driving back to the frontline again. Unlike As-Sadat and War Minister Ismail I had a clear idea of what happened at the front. I knew that the morale of the troops on the eastern bank was the best and that the withdrawal of troop components would proceed in discipline. The units in the east were not even under enemy pressure. As-Sadat, however, ordered that "not one soldier, not a single rifle, nothing" may be withdrawn from the eastern bank.

How were we supposed to stop the enemy? We did not have any forces left in the west. Thus it happened that the enemy enlarged the bridgehead and, after the first cease-fire of 22 October, succeeded in completely surrounding our Third Army which was stationed on the other bank. As-Sadat is responsible not only for the breakthrough of the Israelis but also for the encirclement of the Third Army.

SPIEGEL: But As-Sadat also knows a thing or two about military affairs. He is a military man just as you are.

Ash-Shadhili: He was in the army for only 4 or 5 years as a lieutenant and captain, and with a signal unit to boot. He could not have learned much about strategy and tactics. As president he had the authority to say: "This and that is the objective of war," but he should not have meddled with details about which he does not know the first thing. He wanted to be general and issue orders.

SPIEGEL: President As-Sadat seems to like the military ceremonial.

Ash-Shadhili: He likes to dress in a general's and even an admiral's uniform, which sometimes looks ridiculous. This probably is attributable to his birth. As you can check in his memoirs As-Sadat comes from a very poor family, and he thinks he has to make up for that. This craving for great luxury probably can also be explained by his life history.

SPIEGEL: When did the quarrel over the conduct of the war start between you and the president?

Ash-Shadhili: On 16 October we had a clash in the command headquarters which As-Sadat, by the way, does not mention in his memoirs. He barked at me: "I am the president. You have to follow my orders." Later he must have had something like qualms of conscience, for practice had proved that his strategy had been wrong. This probably preoccupied him, and henceforth he looked around for a scapegoat for the cardinal mistake in the October War. He believes that he will be held responsible for mistakes unless he presents a guilty party.

SPIEGEL: Is As-Sadat perhaps envious of your popularity?

Ash-Shadhili: That may be. At the beginning of the war my name appeared in the media everywhere in the Arab world and in Europe.

SPIEGEL: As-Sadat contends in his memoirs that you suffered a nervous breakdown in the critical hours of the October War.

Ash-Shadhili: A typical As-Sadat lie. I never had a nervous breakdown in my life. But As-Sadat claims I did, just as he claimed that Foreign Minister Fahmi, who resigned prior to the Jerusalem trip, had a nervous breakdown. Anyone not agreeing with As-Sadat allegedly loses his nerves. What I believe, in contrast, is that As-Sadat is a sick man, more seriously so that Hitler was. He projects his problem on others.

SPIEGEL: How does As-Sadat's alleged sickness manifest itself?

Ash-Shadhili: Just read his memoirs: He writes that he has had a nervous breakdown. While imprisoned he was sick for a year. He then says that he has overcome his sickness, but the problem is, the sick man believes that he is healthy whereas in truth he is still sick. He believes that the doctors are the sick people.

SPIEGEL: You really did not have a crisis in the October war?

Ash-Shadhili: I called a well-known newsman to account who had repeated As-Sadat's contention about my nervous breakdown: "Why did you write that?"

"The president has said it."

"Messrs so-and-so--I will not mention any names to spare these people trouble--were present when I had my alleged nervous breakdown. Did you talk with them?

"Yes."

"Do they say that I collapsed?"

"No."

"Why, then, did you write about it?"

"Because the president has said it."--That is the way things are in Egypt today.

SPIEGEL: In his memoirs As-Sadat writes that he dismissed you as chief of staff on 19 October 1973. You stayed in this position up to mid-December. How are we to interpret that?

Ash-Shadhili: This is another example of how As-Sadat treats the truth. It was in April 1974 that he said for the first time that he had dismissed me on 19 October. Then he probably noticed that many people, among them many foreigners, had met me in that post after 19 October. This is why he followed up with another statement: "I dismissed Ash-Shadhili on 19 October, but I instructed War Minister Ismail to keep the decision secret." General Ismail then kept it a secret from the whole world, including me, for I was working as chief of staff until 12 December.

SPIEGEL: As-Sadat writes in his memoirs that you tried in the October War to compete with War Minister Ismail, thus upsetting the execution of orders. As-Sadat is criticizing you and praising the deceased General Ismail. Was he a friend of the president?

Ash-Shadhili: No, not that. As-Sadat promoted the weaker ones, those who could not challenge him. He builds up weaker persons as heroes, but he fires them whenever he belives they have become too self-confident. This is how you must view As-Sadat's numerous government reshuffles. He changes his cabinet three times a year.

SPIEGEL: Why did As-Sadat promote Minister Ismail?

Ash-Shadhili: General Ismail was not popular. He was a sick man, he had cancer and As-Sadat knew it. After Ismail's death in December 1974, As-Sadat said that the physicians told him that General Ismail was suffering from cancer and that he could not make any decisions. So he made all the important decisions. During the war Ismail was always of the same opinion as As-Sadat.

SPIEGEL: But there existed tension between you and General Ismail before that?

Ash-Shadhili: That is right. Differences of opinion existed for 12 or 13 years. In 1969 I wanted to resign as the chief of special troops when 'Abd an-Nasir promoted General Ismail to chief of staff.

SPIEGEL: Did President as-Sadat know of the tense relations between you and General Ismail?

Ash-Shadhili: Yes. I think he exploited that. When As-Sadat was replacing Minister of War Sakik in 1972, he asked me to his house and said: "I decided to replace the minister of war. You will be the chief of staff, responsible for the armed forces." In saying this he looked at his watch, and said: "Let both of us give some thought to who should become the new minister of war--maybe Ismail?"

I answered immediately: "But Mr President, the two of us do not get along very well." As-Sadat replied: "I know that, I know the story about your relations very well." I am convinced that this is the reason he placed both of us in our posts. He wanted that tension. His principle is divide and rule.

SPIEGEL: Who planned the famous crossing of the canal? There was talk before of the Ash-Shadhili plan, but in the memoirs As-Sadat creates the impression that he thought it out and initiated it.

Ash-Shadhili: As-Sadat believes that everything good must be attributed to him, while somebody else must be responsible for everything bad. If the street is well lit somewhere it is said: The president ordered it that way. If the current is out somewhere, it is said that this is the fault of the minister of electricity. If the telephones are working, As-Sadat was active; if they break down it was somebody else's fault.

SPIEGEL: Maybe that is so.

Ash-Shadhili: No, the October War was not planned within 1 month or 1 year; it was the result of years of work. When As-Sadat appointed me as chief of staff in May 1971 there existed no real plan for an offensive. There were, however, strategic maneuvers coming close to an attack plan. Two plans for offensives were worked out in 1971/72. The attack plan was an extension of the second plan of 1971/72. Nobody can say that he was the initiator of that plan. An enormous organization worked on it. Additions were worked out every month.

SPIEGEL: Did you believe at that time in a total victory over Israel?

Ash-Shadhili: No. We knew very well what was possible. The international community would not permit the annihilation of Israel. We knew that this was beyond our military possibilities. It was our plan to carry on the war as long as possible in order to inflict losses on the enemy. In contrast to us, Israel has a limited population and would be much more hard-hit by losses. Israel lost about 300 tanks in the first 24 hours after the crossing of the canal.

SPIEGEL: The fortune of war changed with the Israeli breakthrough at Deversoir and the encirclement of your 3d Army.

Ash-Shadhili: Yes. The encirclement of the 3d Army was the severest blow we suffered. Now the Israelis had a pawn and As-Sadat more or less had to fulfill all Israeli demands. For every gallon of water and every kilogram of food for our encircled soldiers the Israelis got their price in advance. First we had to release the prisoners of war; then we had to give up the blockade in the Red Sea. We were in a fix. We saw a 123,000-ton tanker sail in the direction of Elat and we could not destroy it. Without As-Sadat we would have been much better off in the October War.

SPIEGEL: As-Sadat in his memoirs eventually held the Soviet Union responsible for the outcome of the war that was unsatisfactory for Egypt. Moscow did not send the weapons you needed.

Ash-Shadhili: That is not true, but it is typical for As-Sadat's character. If somebody maintains good relations with him, he tries to make him a hero. But if there is the slightest difference of opinion, he does not just forget the good relations of the past, he even tries to turn the positive into thenegative. Read what As-Sadat said about the Soviets before he sent advisers home in 1972, and read what he said later--these are completely controversial statements.

SPIEGEL: How was that with the Soviet arms in the October war?

Ash-Shadhili: I must confess something: Egyptians worked out the plans, Egyptians crossed the Suez Canal, but without the Soviets there never would have been a crossing. On the eve of the October War we had about 1,700 tanks, all Soviet; about 2,500 armored vehicles, all Soviet. We had a total of 40 brigades, including 10 tank brigades, all with Russian equipment. There were no Western arms during the crossing, aside from some British World War II searchlights we used to show the way to our soldiers at night.

SPIEGEL: How was the supply during the war? As-Sadat claims that urgently needed supplies did not come.

Ash-Shadhili: The Soviet Union helped us with an airlift and it sent supplies by ship.

SPIEGEL: Did it make its satellite pictures available to you? As-Sadat states in his memoirs that the pictures were shown to the CPSU Central Committee bur not to the Egyptians.

Ash-Shadhili: As-Sadat lies, I was present when he was looking at satellite pictues. The only thing the Russians did not permit was Xeroxing them. Liaison officers brought the pictures from Moscow, the president, the minister, and I could see them. Thereafter our reconnaissance officers were permitted to put down the information on our maps before the Russians returned with their pictures.

SPIEGEL: As-Sadat further states in his memoirs that the Russians tried to talk him into a cease-fire when the Arab troops were still victorious.

Ash-Shadhili: As-Sadat distorts facts here. It is true that the Soviets tried at an early stage, around 12 or 13 October, to suggest a cease-fire, but not in order to cheat us. As-Sadat refused to realize that the Russians had more information about the strategy of the adversary and particularly about the U.S. strategy, and that they had to take into consideration possible developments emanating from that war. The Soviets advised us from their point of view.

SPIEGEL: As-Sadat says that the Russians wanted Egypt to be defeated in order to prove that without Soviet advisers Egypt was unable to win a war. One year before the war As-Sadat had sent 20,000 Soviet experts home.

Ash-Shadhili: The Russians were not interested in our defeat because our defeat meant that they too were defeated. When we really were badly off after them: "Please make the Americans support a cease-fire agreement." [as published]

SPIEGEL: How did you as the chief of staff assess in 1972 As-Sadat's decision to send the Russians home?

Ash-Shadhili: We, the military, were not asked at that time. As-Sadat told the war minister on 7 July 1972 what he had in mind. Minister of War Sadik was a great enemy of the USSR. Yet, he was shocked. My stance vis-a-vis the Soviet Union also is critical, but I was also shocked when the general told me about the decision of the president. As-Sadat probably could not imagine what damage could be cause if we treated our main ally and arms supplier in such a way.

SPIEGEL: Can you cite an example of that damage?

Ash-Shadhili: At that time the Soviets were flying and maintaining 75 to 80 MIG-21's and they supplied the personnel for one division equipped with antiaircraft missiles. When they were withdrawn, we had planes without pilots for many months.

SPIEGEL: The crossing of the canal, however, worked without the Russians.

Ash-Shadhili: Do not forget that at that time the Soviet advisers had been to our country for about 20 years.

SPIEGEL: Now the Soviet advisers have been gone a long time and no material comes to Egypt any more. You estimated in June that the strength of the Egyptian Army is just about 60 percent of what it was in the October War, while the combat strength of the Israelis increased to 160 percent. Is this development continuing?

Ash-Shadhili: Yes, the Egyptian decline goes on. I assess the combat strength of our army today as amounting to not more than 50 percent of the 1973 strength, while the Israelis are becoming always more powerful. Do you know that the Israelis, after the Soviet Union, the United States, and the Federal Republic, hold fourth position if we assess the strength of an army by the number of tanks it has. The Federal Republic of Germany has about 3,800 tanks, the Israelis have at least 3,000. The air force of the Israelis is even stronger than that of the Federal Republic, and Israel has only 3 million inhabitants. But Israel is Sparta. We are fighting against Sparta.

SPIEGEL: President As-Sadat in the meantime obtained U.S. arms for your country, such as 50 F-5E's.

Ash-Shadhili: I can just say that As-Sadat's action was high treason. Why? If I procure arms, I must take into consideration the equipment of my adversary. If Israel is my adversary, it has F-15's and F-16's, Phantoms, and Kfirs--aircraft with speed above mach 2.2. If I gave orders to an F-5E pilot to fight an F-16, I would be sending him to certain death. He would have no chance vis-a-vis a superior enemy. So why squander $400 million for these 50 old planes, for planes that will never fight.

SPIEGEL: Reports say that such issues are being discussed in the Egyptian Army and that discontent is gaining ground. What do you know about that?

Ash-Shadhili: I want to say just this much: as a soldier and as the superior of these people I known how they feel. Soldiers and officers are proud when they can have confidence in themselves and in their arms. If I were a pilot and if the president brought me an outdated F-5E, actually I ought to attack only As-Sadat in my first flight.

SPIEGEL: You expect that President As-Sadat will be overthrown?

Ash-Shadhili: That is the only solution to turn everthing to the better. Under As-Sadat Egypt will have no future, but As-Sadat himself has no future either. The West is betting on the wrong horse.

SPIEGEL: You still are very popular in Egypt. Can you imagine becoming politically active in your country?

Ash-Shadhili: I was never pondering that. I will always be ready whenever my fatherland calls me.

SPIEGEL: General, we thank you for this talk.

STATEMENT ISSUED FOLLOWING CSSR'S STROUGAL'S VISIT

JN291724Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 November--Iraq and Czechoslovakia have condemned the Camp David agreements, considering them a conspiracy conflicting with the interests of the Arab nation, enabling the Zionist enemy to retain the occupied Arab territories and preventing the Palestinian Arab people from attaining their legitimate rights.

In a joint statement issued today at the conclusion of the official visit paid by Czechoslovak Premier Lubomir Strougal to Iraq, the two countries condemend the Egyptian leadership's action to split the Arab ranks and harm the Arab people's struggle for national liberation and strengthening Arab independence.

The two sides affirmed that the nonalined movement is considered "an important and effective factor in establishing balanced international relations and a fair international economic system."

The statement says that President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received Premier Lubomir Strougal and that they exchanged viewpoints on topics of mutual concern in a friendly spirit.

The statement says that Premier Lubomir Strougal also met with Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, that they reviewed existing relations between Iraq and Czechoslovakia, and that they noted with satisfaction the continuous development of these relations and cooperation, which are based on the common struggle against imperialism, Zionism and the forces of aggression, and for social progress and just and lasting peace in the world.

The statement refers to the discussions held between the two sides and says that these were conducted in an atmosphere of amity and mutual understanding. The discussions dealt with bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab region, the results of the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad, the situation in Europe in the wake of the Helsinki conference and a number of international issues of mutual concern.

The Czechoslovak side highly commended the achievements made by the Iraqi people under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in the effort to achieve social and economic progress, to build an independent national economy and establish control of the nation's natural resources.

The Iraqi side highly commended the achievements made by the Czechoslovak people under the leadership of the Czechoslovak Communist Party in building a progressive socialist society and also Czechoslovakia's contribution to the strengthening of world peace and security.

The two sides noted with satisfaction that the ties between the two parties are continuously strengthening and are an effective means for further bolstering the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and countries.

The two sides paid great attention to and praised the important successes achieved in economic cooperation. They asserted that there are still great possibilities for this cooperation. They affirmed that they will make efforts to study all these possibilities and to plan cooperation accordingly.

In this connection the two sides lauded the results of the first session of the joint committee for economic, scientific and technical cooperation between them and regarded the results as an important step. They emphasized that they are determined to develop their activity in a comprehensive manner.

The Czechoslovak side expressed its preparedness to participate in the implementation of the Iraqi development plans, particularly in the fields of petrochemicals, the processing of construction material, irrigation and other fields.

The two sides will exert their efforts to expand cooperation between the two countries in the cultural, educational, scientific, and technical fields in accordance with the protocol recently appended to the cultural cooperation agreement.

The two sides welcomed the tangible progress achieved by international relaxation and pointed out the role played by the imperialist and reactionary forces to abort the process of the deescalation of international tension, to escalate armament, and to develop new types of weapons of mass destruction. They agreed that the process of political relaxation should be followed by military relaxation and that effective steps should be adopted to end the arms race and to convene an international conference for disarmament as soon as possible.

The two sides paid special attention to the tense situation in the Arab area. They explained that the reason for this tense situation is the continuation by the ruling Zionist quarters of their aggressive policy through their insistence on the occupation of Arab lands, continuation of expansion and construction of settlements, and the violation of the rights of man in the occupied Arab areas.

The two sides affirmed that just and durable peace in the Arab area cannot be achieved unless the Zionist forces withdraw from all the occupied Arab areas and unless the constant national rights of the Palestinian Arab people are restored, including their right to return home and to self-determination in accordance with the related UN resolutions in this connection.

The two sides fully agreed that the Camp David agreements concluded between the Zionist entity and the Egyptian leadership with the effective participation of the United States are in fact a plot perpetrated behind the backs of the Arabs, contradictory with the Arab interests and anti-Arab.

The two sides believe that the agreements concluded in Camp David are unilateral and separate agreements enabling the Zionist entity to keep the occupied Arab areas and preventing the Palestinian Arab people from regaining their legitimate rights.

The two sides condemned the measures taken by the Egyptian leadership--measures whose aim is to split the Arab ranks and to inflict great harm on the struggle of the Arab people for national liberation and the consolidation of independence.

The two sides expressed their support for the consolidation of the legitimate authority of the government of Lebanon in every region of the country and their respect for the legitimate interests of the Palestinian resistance movement in Lebanon. They also condemned the Zionist entity's intervention in Lebanon's domestic affairs and its attempts to escalate tension and to encourage the partition of Lebanon.

The Czechoslovak premier has expressed his appreciation of Iraq's initiative and efforts for holding the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad to unify Arab ranks against the Zionist schemes and aggressive objectives, as well as for aborting the plans of the capitulatory settlement.

The joint statement added that the two sides are convinced that the unity of the Arab countries on the basis of hostility to colonialism and cooperation among these countries as well as with the socialist states and other progressive forces in the world is a prerequisite for bringing success to the struggle against the aggression facing the Arab region.

The two sides considered the nonalinement movement an important and effective factor in establishing equal international relations and a just international economic system. The two sides also supported the movement's fight against all forms of colonialism.

Czechoslovakia also commends the effective positive role played by Iraq in the nonalined movement. The Iraqi Republic also appreciates the effective and positive role of Czechoslovakia in implementing the final document of the Conference on European Cooperation and Security for the realization of peace and security.

The two sides expressed their support for the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, in their just struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination, and for national liberation and social progress.

The two sides expressed their profound satisfaction over what has been achieved during Strougal's visit to Iraq. They also stressed the significance of joint meetings and contacts.

PLANNING MINISTER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO DAMASCUS PAPER

JN2914599 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1315 GMT 29 Nov 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 29 November--Iraqi Planning Minister 'Adnan Husayn has declared that we are dutybound to place all material and manpower resources in the service of the great goal represented in the unity of Syria and Iraq.

In an interview with the newspaper TISHRIN's mission, which is currently visiting Baghdad, published here today, 'Adnan Husayn said that the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement will lead to essential strategic choices in the formula of the struggle in the Middle East on the military, political and economic levels, particularly since all the enemy designs have been formulated on the assumption that such rapprochement was impossible.

'Adnan Husayn said we first have to take effective steps through coordination and integration and then fully merge the economy, since the two countries have the necessary material, manpower and natural resources. We must place these resources in the service of the great goal--the unity of the two Arab countries, Syria and Iraq.

'Adnan Husayn said that the months of December and January will witness important, intensive and constant meetings, and we do not take measures except after completing the studies, and this approach is the basis of success.

Asked about the anticipated economic measures, the planning minister of fraternal Iraq said our primary goal is to reach full economic unity of the two countries. We believe that the required time for achiving this goal in the healthy atmosphere that we are living under will not be long.

'Adnan Husayn explained that the possibilities of integration and unification of the economies of the two countries are extensive, and this is a natural thing. What is unnatural is not to integrate the economies of the two countries.

The Iraqi planning minister said: The Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement has strengthened the chances of confrontation. Furthermore, the Arab capabilities for confrontation on the northern and eastern front have been consolidated. The rapprochement has changed the formula of Israeli military strategy, particularly since Israeli plans were based on taking on Syria alone, taking advantage of the departure of Egypt from the arena of struggle, and the Iraqi-Syrian dispute.

'Adnan Husayn added: The Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement has introduced a basic change in the formula of the Camp David agreements, which was to take on Syria alone and to strike at it and weaken its capabilities.

PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE TO UN COMMITTEE ON PALESTINIANS

JN291434Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 29 Nov 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 29 November--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has sent a message to the chairman of the UN committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people on the occasion of the day of international solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The following is the text of the president's message:

The chairman of the UN committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians people: On the occasion of the day of international solidarity with the Palestinian people, it gives me pleasure to praise Resolution 32, 40 B, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 2 December 1977 on this subject. This resolution sincerely expresses the feelings of the world masses and their actual position on the Palestinian cause. It also gives me pleasure to take this opportunity to express the deep appreciation of the Iraqi Government and people for the generous efforts your committee has exerted to insure the issuance of this resolution and for the great preparations it has made to celebrate this day.

Iraq's position on the Palestinian cause and the Middle East conflict has always been frank, clear and firm. Iraq considers the Palestinian cause as a central and fateful Arab cause to which the Iraqi people and the sons of the Arab nation are committed. Iraq also considers the struggle to restore the Palestinian people's rights and the occupied Arab territories a general pan-Arab responsibility for which all Arab countries should provide all kinds of assistance and support.

Inspired by this deep pan-Arab feeling and realizing the danger of the current stage the Arab nation is passing through, Iraq took the initiative and convened the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad in early November. This summit produced historic decisions of utmost importance to the Palestinian cause and expressed a unified Arab position supporting Arab solidarity.

We appreciate the efforts you are exerting to highlight the Palestinian people's rights and their fateful issues in all their humane and tragic dimensions, to achieve solidarity with the Palestinian people, and to assure them the largest possible support. We reaffirm to you that Iraq for its part, stemming from its firm and principled positions, has made the necessary preparations to celebrate this day and has devoted all its capabilities to this end.

Finally, we wish your meetings all success.

AD-DUSTUR ON WALDHEIM'S STATEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST

JN281458Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Nov 78 JN

[Text] In its editorial today the newspaper AD-DUSTUR comments on the statement UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has made calling for a comprehensive solution in the Middle East with the participation of the parties concerned. This proposal can bring a solution to the Palestinians' future on the basis of UN resolutions within a conference similar to the Geneva conference.

What is new in the UN secretary general's statement is that he has dotted the i's clearly and frankly concerning the results which may come from the Egyptian-Israeli talks, even if they succeed.

Among the results are the following:

First, any agreement that may be reached among Egypt, Israel and the United States will not be considered a comprehensive solution to the problem. Thus, the talks will not be considered as a substitute for the Geneva conference, nor will they obviate the need for Israel to appear before the conference if it convenes to discuss the comprehensive settlement. And it does not obviate the need for the United States to shoulder its responsibility to convene and participate in the conference with the Soviet Union and the other parties concerned.

Second, the settlement of the Palestinian issue is based on UN resolutions and not the Camp David agreements and their autonomy plan.

Third, any agreement to settle the Palestinian issue in which the Palestinians do not participate--as they are the basic party to the problem--will not be binding on them.

Thus, Waldheim has dissipated all prospects that Cairo, Washington and Tel Aviv may have had in mind for international acceptance of a settlement of the Palestinian issue outside the international umbrella, the UN resolutions on the Palestinian cause, and the effective participation of the Palestinians. This means that the UN secretary general has frankly told the three Camp David parties that the tutelage they are trying to impose on the Palestinian cause is rejected and that its results are not acceptable at the international level or binding on the Palestinians.

COURT GIVES DEATH SENTENCE FOR LAND SALE TO 'ENEMY'

JN291600Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 29 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 29 November--The special court on preventing the sale of real estate to the enemy has sentenced to death As'ad Ibrahim Ahmad Farraj from Bayt Hanina-Jerusalem District and ordered the confiscation of his movable and immovable property after having convicted him of the crime of selling real estate to the enemy. The court also considered the sale null.

BRIEFS

ARAB POTASH COMPANY--Amman, 25 November--Kuwait and Libya will help supply capital for the Arab Potash Company. This information was contained in a memo addressed to the company by the Kuwaiti and Libyan Embassies in Amman. Libya and the British Government will also grant loans to the potash company. The potash company will start production by the end of 1982. [Amman JNA Arabic 1550 GMT 25 Nov 78 JN]

AL-ASAD SENDS MESSAGE ON PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY DAY

JN291445Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad has addressed a telegram to the United Nations on the occasion of its celebration of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people today, 29 November 1978. The following is text of the telegram:

It pleases me on this day, which the United Nations has set as the day of solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people, to commend the choice of 29 November for this occasion. I feel that this choice serves as proof that the injustice done to the Palestinians on 29 November 1947, the day the UN General Assembly decided on the partition of Palestine, should end for good. The UN decision to set a day of international solidarity with the Palestinian peoples expresses the world organization's increasing awareness of its enormous responsibility toward the Palestinian question. After all, this question was started by the partition resolution whose issuance was contrary to the UN Charter, international law and historic facts, and was the result of pressure brought to bear by colonialism and imperialism. Furthermore, many of the peoples and nations of the world were not properly represented then, whereas they are now.

Prompted by this feeling of regret because of the dispersion of the Palestinians and the occupation of their homeland caused by the partition resolutions, the United Nations has tried, especially since 1974, to restore to this people its inalienable national rights. The UN resolutions provided for the return of the Palestinians to their homeland and their right to determine their own destiny without any outside interference and also their right to establish their own independent state on their national soil.

However, Israel has refused and is still refusing to heed justice and the desire of the international community. Moreover, Israel's violation of the UN Charter and resolutions has led to the state of war and the disturbance of peace in the Middle East, which is the most important area in the world. This situation has led to four wars and many armed clashes and has pushed the world to the brink of a world war.

Just peace is what we are seeking and what the international community represented by the United Nations is seeking. This peace can only be achieved if Israel withdraws from all the occupied Arab territories, and the Palestinians achieve their rights, return to their homeland and set up their independent state, as have other peoples of the world under the canopy of the United Nations and its charter.

CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH POLISH AIRLINES

JN291834Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1738 GMT 29 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 29 November--Agreement was reached between the Syrian Arab Airline and the Polish airline LOT to consolidate cooperation between them in the field of air transport. They also agreed to take joint steps to facilitate air transport between the two countries, to work for encouraging it and to activate tourism between the two countries.

The agreement was signed for the Syrian Arab side by Muhyi ad-Din an-Na'sani, the commercial director of the Syrian Arab Airline, and for the Polish side by (Digko Visky), commercial director of LOT. The signing ceremony was attended by the members of the Syrian and Polish sides.

ALGERIA

NO IMPROVEMENT IN BOUMEDIENE; DEFENSE MINISTRY APPOINTMENT

LD301202Y Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 30 Nov 78 LD

[Summary] Reports from Algeria indicate that President Boumediene is not likely to improve.

"Our special correspondent (Alain Menargues) told us just 1 hour ago that it has been learned in Algiers that Col Chadly Benjedid, head of Oran military region, is thought to have been appointed by the Council of the Revolution to temporarily take charge of the Ministry of National Defense."

EXILES CALL FOR 'CONSTITUTIVE ASSEMBLY' TO REPLACE BOUMEDIENE

LD291456Y Rabat MAP in English 1217 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Paris, Nov 28 (MAP)--Two exiled Algerian leaders, Mohamed Harbi and Hocine Zahwane, called on Algerian workers to fill the "power vacancy" left by President Houari Boumediene.

In a leaflet issued Tuesday in Belgium, these two former advisors to President Ahmed Ben Bella, overthrown in 1965 by Colonel Boumediene, said that "Algeria lives in corruption and systematic misinformation, in which the rich get richer and the poor poorer."

The two former leaders urged the Algerians to call for "constitutive assembly" to replace President Boumediene, sickened by a type of fatal blood cancer.

LIBYA

LIBYA TO PARTICIPATE IN AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION MEETING

LD300944Y Tripoli JANA in English 0803 GMT 30 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Nov 30, JANA--The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah will participate in the meetings of the third session for the committee of Afro-Arab cooperation which commences next Saturday in Kuwait to study the consolidation of Afro-Arab cooperation in all fields.

During the meeting the committee will discuss the report of the Afro-Arab organizations concerning the implementation of the resolutions and commendations of the third session which was held in Niger last June and the establishment of sub-committees specialised in all activities.

The committee will prepare the agenda and fix the date of the fourth session meetings for the committee of Afro-Asian cooperation which will be held in Kuwait. It will be attended by forty-six African and Arab foreign ministers, and will also fix the date of the meetings of the Arab and African ministers of information and work.

AL-QADHDHAFI MESSAGE TO WALDHEIM ON SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS

LD292028Y Tripoli JANA in English 1756 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, November 29, JANA--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the great 1st September revolution and secretary general of the General People's Congress sent the following message to Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the UN secretary-general to mark the declaration of the 29th November as a day of international solidarity with the Palestinian people:

Secretary-general,

The (?devotion) of a day this year to the solidarity with the Palestinian people is an evidence of the recognition by the nations of the world included in this organization, that one of the peoples of this world, namely the Palestinian people, who have been driven out of their homes, whose land is occupied, deserve to return. Otherwise, why should the UN devote a day for the solidarity with the Palestinian people? How did these nations decide to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people? They have decided to stand in solidarity with them through their tragedy, with respect to their fight to return to their occupied homeland, through their struggle, and as regards to the establishment of their own independent state on the whole of the Palestinian soil.

It is truly regrettable that this should be the attitude of the nations of the world towards these people while these same people are ignored outside the United Nations. Although this is regrettable, it is also natural. Because those who conspire outside the UN also conspire against the UN against the civilization of the world, against the peace and the peoples they are dominating though their parties, their monies, or their swords.

This solidarity day by the nations of the globe is an international revelation about the attitudes of those conspirators who ignore the Palestinian people, which minimizes the relevance of their obvious manoeuvres.

I am addressing you as an Arab on the one hand, and as a man whose country is a member of the UN on the other hand. Therefore I am entitled to speak about the Palestinians, to whom I am related, and about the UN as one of its members, stressing that the international solidarity is a historic testimonial of the justice of the Palestinian cause.

It will be seen as an international support for the struggle of the Palestinian people until they achieve victory over the racist Zionism the enemy of humanity and of peace.

I greet you, secretary-general, and congratulate you for such a political and historic awareness which was reached by the UN during you era.

My best regards and my appreciation.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi also sent a similar message to this day's celebrations committee in Geneva.

At-Turayki Cable

LD292029Y Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, November 29, JANA--The foreign secretary, Dr. 'Ali Abd as-Salam at-Turayki called upon the peace-loving peoples to assume full responsibility with regard to the rights of the Palestinian people and the implementation of the United Nations resolutions, until the Palestinian people restore their full rights and until they can live in peace like any other people, in their homeland.

In cables sent to the secretaries-general of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity, and the Islamic Conference, the chairman of the non-aligned countries as well as foreign ministers of the world's countries, the foreign secretary stressed that the Jamahiriyah affirms her adherence to all the United Nations resolutions which secure the full rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and her cooperation for restoring the full rights of the Palestinian people fighting the racist regimes and confronting the imperialist manoeuvers, by all means.

In his cable on the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, the foreign secretary stated that the peoples of the world are witnessing the continuous intransigeance reflected in the stands of the racist Zionist entity who ignores the resolutions of the United Nations and of the international organizations and continues to occupy the Arab territories by force, carelessly defying all values and ideals. Accordingly neither this entity nor any other racist regime qualify to be members of the United Nations.

Dr. at-Turayki pointed out, in his cable to the sufferances and tragedies experienced by the Palestinian people in the past thirty years and to the conspiracies waged against them, the most recent of which are the "Stable David" agreements. He affirmed that the resolutions stipulated by these agreements, have completely ignored the rights of the Palestinian people.

The foreign secretary affirmed that these rights are nonalienable. They are the rights which were stipulated in the United Nations Resolution No 32236 which was issued on 22d November 1974. They are rights which should be defended until the Palestinian people restore their self-determination, and establish their own state on the whole of Palestine.

MAURITANIA

CHIEF OF STATE SPEAKS ON INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

PA291257Y Paris AFP in French 1450 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 28 Nov (AFP)--In a speech broadcast Tuesday on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the proclamation of Mauritania's independence, chief of state Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck stated that he is ready to take up arms again if national sovereignty is threatened "by anyone."

Col Saleck gave assurances that "to serve their desire for peace and the country's prestige, the people and the Mauritanian Armed Forces would still be ready to die to defend national sovereignty if for one reason or another it were threatened." "We are a warring people," he said, "who know how to mobilize ourselves and fight to defend our cause."

President Saleck stated that "despite the slowness that might be noticed, we are progressing toward the establishment of lasting peace (in the Western Sahara), toward the end of this fratricidal war which has been imposed on our people."

The chief of state also called "catastrophic in every respect" the situation which the Military Committee for National Recovery (CMRN) "inherited" after overthrowing President Moktar Ould Daddah on 10 July. "Since that date, the CMRN and the government," the president said, "have been determined to take into consideration [faire le point de] this inheritance of destruction, giving total priority to the recovery of national sovereignty that was lost for many years."

"To do this," Col Saleck said, "we aim to build balanced relations of cooperation and friendship with all our partners without accepting any form of dependence on any of them."

Concerning the economic plan, the chief of state recalled the financial assistance granted to Mauritania after 10 (?July) by Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Libya, Kuwait and France. He also recalled the beginning of a comprehensive plan for economic recovery, drawn up in cooperation with the World Bank (reform of the public sector, reorganizing the foreign debt, solutions to face the budgetary deadlock and the imbalance in the balance of payments, announcement of a regional development policy). The president also noted that the studies favoring a reduction in "fiscal pressure" and "liberalization of trade" have reached an "advanced stage." He also reaffirmed his desire to implement a new rural development strategy and development of the fishing sector, a major Mauritanian natural resource.

Finally, the president announced a reinforcement of [word indistinct] of control and decentralization of the work of administrative personnel "to improve the efficiency of the officials."

INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON SLAVERY

PA292222Y Paris AFP in French 1505 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 28 Nov (AFP) In statements to the Mauritanian Press Agency (AMP) on Tuesday, Mauritanian Interior Minister Maj Jiddou Ould Saleck condemned the persistent rumors that the Military Committee for National Recovery (CMRN) is abetting, if not tolerating, slavery in Mauritania.

"Certain persons whose interests have been or could be affected by the actions of the CMRN are seeking to sow confusion and to discredit the new power," the interior minister stated. "They will be strongly fought and sanctioned," he warned.

Maj Jiddou Ould Saleck stressed that "the power resulting from the 10 July movement (date of President Moktar Ould Daddah's overthrow) is essentially progressive" and could not permit "a retrogression [retour en arriere] with regard to the basic principles of progress and democracy."

"Slavery has existed in Mauritania but we feel that today it is outmoded," the minister added. "Formal instructions to the regional authorities will be issued so that this anachronism will in no way be perpetuated," he concluded.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN ASKS MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS

LD291446Y Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Rabat, Nov 29 (MAP)--For Mauritania's independence day, Moroccan King Hassan II told President Moustapha Ould Saleck Tuesday that "relations should be reinforced between the two countries." This reinforcement, added King Hassan II, will "permit Morocco and Mauritania to meet the challenges and obstacles in the fight for stability and prosperity of the Maghreb region."

MINISTER WISHES END OF ALGERIAN 'AUTOCRATIC' RULE

LD300943Y Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 27 Nov 78 p 6 LD

[Interview by telephone with Moroccan Minister of Information Abdelhadi Boutaleb "who was with the official Moroccan delegation which accompanied King Hassan II during his visit to the United States"--place and date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: What has King Hassan II's visit to the United States achieved in the political, military and economic fields, and has the U.S. attitude toward the dispute in the Sahara changed?

Answer: It is no longer a secret that King Hassan II's trip to the United States did not aim at obtaining specific gains in the military or economic fields so much as at acquainting U.S. officials, headed by President Carter, with the truth regarding Moroccan views on world issues and political situations. The king did not go to the United States against our neighbors. His trip was made for the purpose of studying situations and looking at existing world problems and areas of tension from the Moroccan viewpoint. U.S. officials listened to the Moroccan views carefully and with interest and understood them. This was the only aim of the visit--an aim which has been achieved and which is evident in the Moroccan-U.S. joint statement.

Question: But it is being said that the visit failed.

Answer: We have not heard anybody saying that the trip has failed, nor, to my knowledge, on the basis of what I have read, has anybody said so. However, I did notice that some commentators said this after having said in advance that the objective of the visit was to obtain arms or to obtain permission for the use of such arms in certain circumstances, or to win advantages and privileges from the United States or greater U.S. support for the Moroccan viewpoint. Therefore, when they noticed that nothing was declared in this respect at the conclusion of the trip, some of them drew the conclusion that the trip failed to achieve its objectives.

Question: What is your opinion in the situation in Algeria?

Answer: Boumediene has been ruling Algeria autocratically. Therefore, what is of interest to us is the end of the autocratic rule in Algeria. The future can be planned only by the Algerian people, if they can freely express what they wish. We hope that Algeria--the post-Boumediene Algeria--will allow the Algerian people to say what they want. The Algerian people want only peace in the area and cooperation with their neighbors.

Question: How far does Morocco support the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian stand?

Answer: Morocco had encouraged dialog between Egypt and Israel. Therefore, the king was one of the few national leaders who did not see the Egyptian president's visit to Jerusalem in any way jeopardizing the soundness of the Arab stand. In his speech in Jerusalem, President Anwar as-Sadat did not violate any element of what the Arabs agreed on at the 1974 Rabat summit. In fact he sincerely and enthusiastically defended those resolutions in a manner consistent with the situation. After the signing of the Camp David agreements, the Egyptian president stopped in Rabat and explained that what had been achieved at Camp David was only a framework for action and that this framework would be completed in negotiations between the Arabs and Israel. All the assurances given to Morocco indicate that Israel is ready to evacuate Sinai and the Golan as well as to initiate negotiations with representatives of the Palestinian people to determine the status of Gaza and the West Bank. This framework of action is subject to give and take. Therefore, Morocco has considered this framework in its final shape--as constituting a comprehensive and just solution for the Arab problem and the Palestinian problem.

But Morocco cannot give its final say on the Camp David agreements until negotiations are completed. Its criterion in judging this will be the compatibility of the outcome with the Rabat conference resolutions. Therefore, while we support it in principle, we are waiting to see the final results in order to give our final views and declare our final stand. The Rabat summit, as the king said, was a peace summit because it paved the way to negotiations with Israel, provided that such negotiations lead to a fair deal for Arab rights. This is what President as-Sadat is trying to do. Recent reports that the negotiations are faltering can only mean that the Camp David agreements have not led to what President as-Sadat sought from them.

Question: Is there a possibility of a U.S.-Palestinian dialog's being initiated?

Answer: We believe that such a dialog is needed, because it would pave the way to removing the obstacles hindering agreement on the present problem. Such a dialog would enable the American side to understand better the Palestinian people's viewpoint and would enable the Palestinian side to obtain the necessary support from the world's greatest country, which, no one doubts, holds the key to a solution.

Question: What is Morocco's view regarding the conclusion of the treaty between the Soviet Union and Ethiopia, especially after King Hassan had declared his readiness to set up an African military contingent to defend Angola and replace the Cubans? Has the king obtained the approval of the countries which he said have agreed to participate in the formation of such a contingent?

Answer: We have no objection whatever to the Soviet-Ethiopian treaty, and we see no harm in any African state signing any treaty with any other country. The sovereign African states have the power to choose whatever allies they want. But we are opposed to interference by any foreign power, whatever its line or ideology may be, in the affairs of Africa. On the basis that Africa is for the Africans and solving Africa's problems is the concern of the Africans themselves. [paragraph continues]

Accordingly, the king said that if the presence of Cuban forces in Angola is only to meet the national defense requirements then he would propose the establishment of an African military force to protect Angola and replace the Cubans as well as to put an end to foreign inteference in Africa. When the king proposed forming this force from Morocco, Sudan, Egypt and Nigeria he did not consult the countries concerned in this regard. But he has put forward a positive proposal which, if Angola accepts it in order to defend its soil, will find response not only from the countries I mentioned but also from other African countries. In any event the matter depends on Angola's acceptance and on the OAU studying it if Angola so wishes.

Question: Does King Hassan II intend to visit France shortly? It has been said that French-Moroccan relations are somewhat strained.

Answer: There is no strain in Moroccan-French relations, and they are still the ideal kind of relations that can be taken as an example of what relations between states should be. The king has received an open invitation from French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, and therefore it will be his majesty who will choose the date.

Question: What is your opinion of the contacts which the new Mauritanian leaders are carrying out?

Answer: Probably you mean the contacts which the Mauritanian leaders have been carrying out since the recent change in the Mauritanian regime with the aim of ending tension in the area. Morocco has no objection to these contacts since it shares the objectives which the Mauritanians are trying to achieve from such contacts, namely the establishment of peace in the area. Naturally, Mauritania is a sovereign state and has the right to take the steps it deems necessary to achieve this end. What matters to Morocco is that the Mauritanian leaders inform it of their contacts and that Moroccan-Mauritanian relations continue in the spirit of cooperation and amity by which they have been characterized. We have not noticed any change in these relations. Naturally Morocco, which has more than once declared through its king its attitude to this problem, is confident that the Mauritanians are well aware of the reality and dimensions of this situation and are acting in their contacts in the light of it.

SUDAN

GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON SOLLDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS

LD292100Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The Foreign Ministry today issued a statement marking the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. In it, it affirmed support for the Palestinian people's struggle to restore their rights, principally that of establishing their own independent national state on their land. The statement says:

"Despite the support of all the states of the world and their peoples for their legitimate fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, Israel and world Zionism insist on continuing to snub these people and their legitimate rights provided for in all international charter governing relations among states and peoples at present and to flagrantly challenge the international will represented by the numerous UN resolutions rejecting aggression and expansion at the expense of others.

"The obstacles and impediments that Israel has continued to put in the way of all earnest attempts to find a just peaceful solution to this problem stand as a clear testimony of the extent of its disdain for the principles, charters and resolutions which the conscience of the entire world has unanimously agreed."

The statement concludes: "The Democratic Republic of Sudan firmly believes that the Palestinian problem is the essence of the Zionist-Arab conflict. Just and durable peace in the Middle East will not be achieved except by confirmation of the fundamental and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and complete Israeli evacuation from the occupied Arab territories. The Democratic Republic of Sudan calls on all states and peoples of the world to stand resolutely by the fundamental and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and to categorically condemn Israel's refusal to recognize the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights and to denounce the acts of subjugation, torture and extermination being practiced by the Zionist regime against the steadfast Palestinian people, as well as the violations by that regime of the sanctity of sacred places in Palestine."

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES U.S. UN REPRESENTATIVE ANDREW YOUNG

JN291457Y Khartoum SUNA Arabic 1445 GMT 29 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 29 November--Vice President and Foreign Minister Ar-Rashid at-Tahir today received U.S. permanent delegate to the United Nations Andrew Young. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and the political situation in the Arab area following the developments resulting from the Camp David agreements. They also reviewed the conditions of the African Continent in light of the discussions of the African-American conference currently meeting in Khartoum.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA MAKES STATEMENT ON SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE

LD292102Y Tunis TAP in English 1617 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Tunis, Nov 29 (TAP)--On the occasion of the world day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, Prime Minister Hedi Nouria made the following statement:

"I have the honor to declare, on behalf of President Bourguiba, the Tunisian Government and people's support to the Palestinian people on the occasion of the world day of solidarity with the Palestinian people celebrated in application of the United Nationa resolution.

"I would like first to express my regards to the United Nations for the positions it takes concerning the Palestinian problem. If this just cause is at the centre of the international dialogue, it is thanks to the United Nations' positions.

"We are particularly [word indistince] to remind of the fact that this powerful international organization acknowledged the Palestinian Liberation Organization as the only legal representative of the Palestinian people, to give to it the status of an observer and to allow it to present in the United Nations, the Palestinian problem as a distincitive liberation cause. This cause [words indistinct] the Middle East fundamental problem, and that any solution of this problem would be incomplete and [words indistinct] as long as the Palestinian [words indistinct] the Palestinians have not the right for self-determination.

"Maybe we should see in these positions the most consistent steps which the United Nations made since its setting up, for putting an end to the injustice of which the Palestinian people are victims."

"On such a day in 1947 the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution on sharing Palestine, giving 55 percent of the Palestinian territory to a new state which has 800,000 Jews who immigrated from various countries, leaving 45 percent of the territory to the real inhabitants, the Palestinians.

"And now Israel has all the territory and extends its power on other territories which it occupied, refusing to acknowledge the Palestinians after it took their land, ignoring even the conditions laid down in the document which gave it birth, despising any international charter or decision [words indistinct] of sharing always remains according to us stained with iniquity. 'The XX Century [as received] injustice,' as President Bourguiba said. [sentence as received] We do not consider it less than an international official means against which we can do nothing since it had the majority of the votes of the states, members in the United Nations Organization, so we were obliged to accept this decision, by advocating its respect and its application and the ratification of the borders it delimited.

"Yet, we stumbled in Israel's stubborness and its fondness to the force logic. [sentence as received] The Palestinians were then obliged to re-act. They have decided to continue their efforts until Israel changes its mind and becomes convinced of the fact that peace in the east area is alienated to the acknowlegment of the Palestinians' right for a state which was their ancestors', that is a return to the international justice which gave them the right to edify an independent and sovereign state.

"There is nobody who doesn't know that Tunisia has always supported the Palestinian cause. Indeed, we have been following the development of the problem in its successive stages ever since our own country was under the sway of colonial power.

"As early as 1946, President Bourguiba did not hestitate to go to Cairo where he sought refuge, to proclaim his opinion before the Anglo-American board of enquiry. It would be useless to remind of the advice that Tunisia has given, the support it never stopped giving to Palestinians through its leader who was, indisputably the first to publicly recommend that Palestinians take over their own cause themselves. It would be useful, in this regard, to remind of the fact that during the Cairo Arab summit, Jan 16 1964, President Bourguiba said:

"'It is...necessary to place the Palestinian problem in its real setting, which is Palestine. Then it is necessary to make the whole world become aware of this problem. We could do that only if the Palestinians react in a direct and continuous way, if they are determined to accept all sacrifices for that and if they gave themselves a lucid [words indistinct] leadership'.

"Tunisia will stand by the Palestinian people's side until the day when they succeed in creating on Palestine's territory a Palestinian state fit to regroup all Palestinians and give them back their dignity and sovereignty. Tunisia will always be anxious as long as Jerusalem, towards which Moselms turned at first for their prayers, third holy city, symbol of the meeting of Islam with the other revealed religions, will remain under the sway of Israel, occupied by force, subject to annexation and Judaization attempts which shocked Moslems all over the world.

"Finally I am bent on addressing a thought touched with emotion to the Palestinian martyrs who sacrificed themselves to defend rights an honour. I bow to those who keep on fighting despotic and unfair forces, those Palestinians who are fighting everywhere and putting this verse of the Koran in concrete form: 'Men fulfil their engagements with respect to God. Some are dead, the others wait for death, but they have hardly changed behaviour.'"

MK FEDER CRITICIZED FOR SEEING ANTI-ISRAEL JEWS IN USSR

TA291133Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Governmental elements handling the problem of Soviet Jews have expressed strong indignation about MK Naftali Feder's meetings in Moscow with two Jewish personages known for their enmity to Zionism and the State of Israel. This is reported by our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh. Feder, from Mapam, is participating in the Israeli delegation which is currently visiting in the Soviet Union, and he conferred with Gen David (Dragunsky) and with poet Aharon (Vergelis). The Soviet authorities regularly entrust these personages with propaganda tasks. Before the delegation departed for the Soviet Union, its members were told that such meetings might harm the struggle of the Soviet Jewry.

MODA'I REPORTS ON POST-TREATY OIL PURCHASES FROM EGYPT

TA291134Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Nov 78 TA

[Text] After the peace agreement is signed, Israel will ask Egypt to sell it about 1.5 million tons of oil per year, Energy Minister Yizhaq Moda'i has told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. In his survey, he noted that the Egyptians are not prepared to give Israel the extra rights it deserves due to discovering and producing the oil. Egypt is only ready to sell us oil at the international market prices.

FORMER UN AMBASSADOR ASSAILS UN-CREATED PALESTINE DAY

TA291340Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 29 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Thirty-one years ago, the United Nations General Assembly passed the partition plan that resulted in the creation of the State of Israel. Now, the United Nations has come full circle declaring today Palestine Day. There has been no official Israeli Government reaction to this, but nonofficially sources in the government pointed out the irony of the fact that the body that voted to set up the Jewish state is now identifying itself with an organization that wants Israel's destruction, the PLO terrorists. Hayyim Herzog who was Israel's ambassador during a wave of anti-Israel resolutions, including the one linking Zionism with racism in 1975, was in New York when the groundwork for Palestine Day was weighed. In Tel Aviv today, Herzog told reporter Shim'on Ayyalon that a committee of 23 nations, only four of which have diplomatic relations with Israel, set up a Palestinian unit.

[Herzog--begin recording] Now, this unit would deal with explaining the Palestine issue. This Palestine unit would be in the Secretariat of the United Nations. It would deal with explaining the Palestinine issue, would produce films, would produce propaganda material and in general would take up the cudgels on behalf of the Palestinian Arabs.

I pointed out at the time that this was unheard of and that this, in fact, constitutes a very very serious development for the United Nations. For the first time the United Nations now is becoming involved as a party in a conflict. So far, until now, the United Nations has tried or was supposed to try to remain above the conflict and to be an honest broker, if you like to call it--it is a misused word as far as the United Nations is concerned; there is not much honesty there--but to be a broker between the sides. And then, you have the situation where the United Nations which is supposed to keep the peace between the sides, has UN forces for this purpose in the area, suddenly becomes a party to the conflict. They then appropriated something in the region of $800,000 for the work of this committee this past year which would include $80,000 for a movie. There are also other appropriations from other sources. Total came to about $1.2 millions available for this purpose.

Now the significance is obvious. It is very very serious indeed. The effect will be negligible because whatever they have to say, they have said. People are, by and large, pretty sick of the propaganda that has been pouring out on this issue. But the difference is now that this comes out and it is paid for by the United Nations including all the member states of the United Nations. It seems to me that this is a very very serious development indeed, it will not have much effect but with the United Nations involved, it is serious not from our point of view but from the point of view of the United Nations. It means that the United Nations is no more, cannot even appear to be neutral.

SUDAN-ISRAEL RELATIONS DEPENDENT ON PEACE WITH EGYPT

TA290730Y Jerusalem POST in English 29 Nov 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau, POST correspondent in Cairo]

[Excerpts] Cairo--Sudan is "not in a hurry" to embark on its own course of normalization with Israel, but future Sudan-Israel relations cannot be ruled out if the Israel-Egypt peace process develops satisfactorily. This was the thrust of statements made by Sudan's minister of information and culture, Ali Shummu, in an interview yesterday with the Jerusalem POST.

"We'll wait and see how the peace develops," Shummu said. Meanwhile, he said Sudan would vigorously defend Egypt, the Organization of African Unity, and other African forums against attacks by Libya and Algeria or other hard-line Afro-Arab states. Shummu said Sudan and other Arab moderates would watch particularly for signs of progress on the West Bank-Gaza autonomy plan.

He was very conscious of and very familiar with the current linkage-timetable impasse. He said that "the Arab world will certainly be swayed by" the outcome of this dispute. Israel's "tough position" on this was "harming" President Anwar as-Sadat in the Arab world, the minister declared.

There were suspicions, Shummu said, among the Arabs that As-Sadat was settling for a "separate deal." A "satisfactory" solution to the current linkage-timetable dispute would go a long way towards allaying these suspicions, at least on the part of Arab moderates.

As information minister, Shummu is one of the men closest to Sudan President Gen Ja'far Numayri.

His interview with the POST in the Mena House Hotel is probably the first such on-the-record interview by a Sudanese leader to an Israeli journalist. Shummu was courteous and friendly, though, at the same time, reserved and measured in his substantive statements.

He said that "As-Sadat does not expect" Sudan to express support for his peace initiative by opening its own ties with Israel. Egypt was satisfied, he said, with the strong declarations of support--both for the original initiative and for the Camp David accords--that Numayri and other Sudanese leaders have been voicing.

The information minister said Sudan would not discourage non-Arab African countries that wished to do so from renewing diplomatic ties with Israel. There was no need, he said, for Sudan to involve itself in such decisions. But personally he believed the Africans, too, would want to see how the peace developed, both between Israel and Egypt and as regards the Palestinians, beforing renewing formal contacts with Israel.

Shummu denied that there were any informal contacts between Sudan and Israel.

WEST BANK REACTION TO MILITARY GOVERNMENT ASSESSED

TA2915lOY Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Nov 78 p 19 TA

[By Yosef Zuri'el]

[Excerpt] The fact that opinions are divided in Israel about the future of Judaea and Samaria occupies the military government, in its capacity as controller of everything to do with life in the area, and the division of opinion serves as an excuse for the mayors, public figures and local newspaper editors to let their tongues run freely. There have often been people who raised this question to the censor and the military government: Why are we forbidden to argue over an issue involving us, while in Israel the argument is free and legitimate?

This question poured out of Dr (Gabi Bramqi), director of the Bi'r Zayt University. This week he told me: "I was invited for a talk with the military governor and, with the aid of a translator, it was explained to me that any political assembly within university grounds was forbidden and that the military governor holds me responsible for carrying out the order. In this situation, there was no time to ask questions or to try to have a dialog with the military governor. But one question remains hanging in the air: Who am I to stop students from thinking and discussing the problems occupying them? I can only try to prevent their assembling to express their views."

What Dr (Bramqi) expressed cautiously and quietly is being expressed by the mayor of Rammalah, Karim Khalaf, in hard-hitting language and what he is saying is acceptable to broad circles in Judaea and Samaria.

Karim Khalaf claims: "Our problem is also Israel's problem. A situation has been created where we have been under a military government for a long time and Israel rules us. Anyone who thought that our problem would remain frozen was mistaken. Look at what happens in the world today. All countries, all international organizations, recognize our right to an independent state. Even within Israel itself, there are parties who support us. In such a reality, it is impossible to keep silent and continue to live as though nothing at all was happening in our area."

"It is impossible to keep silent," Israeli elements say and explain: "Today we are in a situation where we cannot demand that the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria cut themselves off from political activity surrrounding them. We can only try and direct it into tracks that will not cause ferment and riots. It is not clear whether we will succeed. There are forces today that are stronger than the military government and they are sweeping the population into situations forcing it to take a position. The word "autonomy" is enough to cause every mayor and rural council member to use it as he wishes."

Autonomy: Whether it comes about or not, the seeds of ferment in Judaea and Samaria are there and it is not necessary to go to great lengths to feel this. There are those who think that the ban on political rallies will actually increase it. Others think that the ban on rallies will actually cause an increase in political activity among the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria.

Elyas Frayj, mayor of Bethlehem, who is considered to be one of the moderates among the public figures in Judaea and Samaria, says: "I and my colleagues are in a difficult situation. We are all aware of the political process moving through the area. This process does not leave us indifferent, whether rallies are held or not. And if we, the oldsters, are in such a situation, the youngsters are in a more difficult one.

This is cautious language, but it nevertheless has more than a hint of what is beginning to occur in Judaea and Samaria in the context of the area's future and the tasks expected to fall on the defense authorities, whether the autonomy is founded or whether the military government continues to rule over this stretch of land.

NEW PRO-PLO ORGANIZATION TO BE FOUNDED IN WEST BANK

TA292023Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Mayors in Samaria and other public activists among the PLO supporters in the territories are now working to found a united political framework, a quasi-secret one, called the Committee of National Direction. Our correspondent on Arab affairs has learned that, according to the new program, a central institution with this name will be established, which will unite the PLO supporters in the Gaza Strip and Judaea and Samaria, with similar regional committees to be founded later. Among the activists working on this are the Mayors of Nabulus and Ramallah.

In the meantime, the significance of the joint communique issued last night in Amman, at the end of a visit by a PLO delegation to Jordan, is being studied in Israel. The communique speaks of cooperation in the fight against the autonomy but, for the moment, there are no signs of actual coordination between the two sides.

IDF PREPARES TO TRANSFER FROM SINAI TO NEGEV

TA291923Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 29 Nov 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Along the international borderline, where the IDF is due to take up positions in another 3 years, groundbreaking work has begun in the last few days to prepare sites, establish buildings and bases. This is the beginning of the process of transferring the IDF to the Negev and constructing the foundations for its camps, an operation which, according to the estimate of elements in the Ministry of Defense, will cost about 40 billion Israeli pounds. Our military correspondent Roni Dani'el reports:

Even before the peace treaty is signed, the IDF will evacuate equipment and installations from Sinai which are not essential for emergency situations and equipment which it had already decided to evacuate. This early activity is intended to save transport and time when the evacuation begins at full speed after the peace agreement is signed.

According to the draft agreement, the IDF will have to evacuate its forces to the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line within 9 months and, according to estimates by the quartermasters' branch of the General Staff headquarters, the IDF will begin to carry out this evacuation on its own and without aid from civilian elements. A survey made of the Sinai installations shows that many camps erected by the IDF, particularly with prefabricated construction, may be dismantled to be reassembled in the intended sites in the Negev. Most of the buildings that cannot be dismantled were built by the Egyptians, such as those in At-Tur or Refidim. Fortified or underground command posts will be destroyed before the evacuation.

Along the international borderline, along which the IDF will take up positions in another 3 years, groundbreaking work has already begun to prepare sites for buildings and bases.

This work is being done at this stage by the engineering corps, but there is no doubt that civilian contractors will also be called in when the infrastructure is being built.

ISRAEL INSISTS ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BEFORE AUTONOMY ELECTIONS

TA300715Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 30 Nov 78 p 1 TA

[By HA'AREZ political correspondent]

[Text] Israel will insist that the date for establishing diplomatic relations with Egypt precede the date on which elections for the autonomy institutions in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza will be held, reliable sources in Jerusalem said last night.

The sources stated this in reaction to reports from Egypt that Cairo might propose extending the period of the IDF withdrawal to the Al'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line from 9 months (as per the Camp David accords) to 1 year. According to reports from Egypt, Cairo might raise such a suggestion within the framework of its willingness to accept the U.S. compromise proposal, which sets December 1979 as the target date for holding the elections for the autonomy institutions.

While the U.S. compromise proposal is intended to secure Israel against a situation whereby establishing relations with Egypt will be dependent on elections for the autonomy institutions, this will be achieved according to the Egyptian version, because Cairo intends to tie the two moves to one date: December 1979. Thus, the sources emphasized last might, if Egypt proposes extending the period of the first stage of the withdrawal and the establishment of diplomatic relations until December 1979, Israel will demand that the elections to the autonomy institutions be held afterward.

The sources' statements prove that despite official positions, which reflect a total Israeli refusal to set a specific date for the elections for the autonomy institutions, political circles in Jerusalem are considering the possibility of reaching a compromise on this matter. One of the possibilities emerging from the position expressed by the sources last night is that the date for the elections will be defined as a stage that will be reached after diplomatic relations are established, provided that tht advent of the stage does not occur beyond a certain date, which will be determined and stated in the formula accepted by both Israel and Egypt.

Officially, Jerusalem is waiting for authorized information on the Egyptian proposals, which the Egyptian prime minister will bring to Washington today. By last night, no information was received in Jerusalem concerning the possibility of a visit by Cyrus Vance to the area in the near future. Such a possibility had in fact been raised by the Egyptians during the last days of the Blair House talks, but it has since not been discussed between Egypt, Jerusalem and Washington.

OFFICIAL SOURCES PREDICT CONCLUSION OF TREATY BY 17 DECEMBER

TA300905Y Paris AFP in English 0853 GMT 30 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 30 (AFP)--Israeli officials are convinced that Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat will unfreeze the peace negotiations when the two leaders go to Norway to receive the Nobel Peace Price on Dec 10. They are likely to have two or three private talks in Oslo to break the deadlock in time to conclude the negotiations by Dec 17, the date set in the Camp David agreements, informed sources said here.

A source close to Mr Begin's office said he will leave for Oslo at the end of next week, but that it was not known if U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance also might go there.

Well-informed Israelis forecast that Egypt will assent to the American-proposed compromise on linking the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty to a timetable for administrative autonomy of the Arab-inhabited West Bank of the Jordan and Gaza Strip occupied by Israel.

Informed sources said there is reason to believe that Washington will put pressure on Cairo to accept December next year as a mere goal for holding elections in those territories rather than an imperative deadline.

But the sources believe that Washington will back Israel's refusal to modify article six of the draft treaty. Egypt wants it modified to clearly stipulate that the treaty would not have priority over Egypt's defense pact with other Arab countries.

LA'AM FACTION IN LIKUD HAS NOT YET SPLIT

TA291218Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 29 Nov 78 p 10 TA

[By Dan Margalit]

[Text] In a discussion in the Likud Executive yesterday, Minister Moshe Nissim disclosed that he had not yet received an official announcement about the split in the La'am section. To the surprise of those present, MK Hillel Seidel asked MK Yiga'el Horowitz whether this was true and received confirmation. This check was made in the wake of MK Seidel's request to discuss the situation inside the Likud.

The Likud Executive convened at the proposal of MK Moshe Shamir to discuss the government's functioning. He claimed that the government has failed in various spheres "and that everything done was contrary to the Likud's platform." MK Yosef Tamir remarked that he will propose a discussion about MK Shamir's membership in the Likud against the background of the latter's views. HA'AREZ' correspondent has learned that in an internal discussion Shamir said that if the peace agreement with Egypt was endorsed, he would leave the Likud.

NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT CABINET APPOINTMENTS BEGIN

TA291305Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Nov 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] A MAFDAL delegation met with Begin this morning, complaining to him that the MAFDAL's strength in the government has weakened. At these very moments, the Likud Liberal faction is meeting to discuss the very same subject. Razi Barqa'i reports from the Knesset:

The decisions on new appointments in the government will be postponed until the prime minister returns from the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Islo. This was learned in the wake of this morning's meeting between Mr Begin and the heads of MAFDAL. We were told that the MAFDAL delegation, including the three party ministers, was very firm on its position: An imbalance has been created in the cabinet, they told Begin, Yiga'el Horowitz has left and a split has occurred in the DMC. The power of the hawks in the cabinet has weakened and, in contrast, Yiga'el Yadin's group has not been harmed. The MAFDAL party therefore demanded that Begin instruct one of the DMC [as heard] ministers to leave the cabinet. Mr Begin answered, more or less, as follows: I cannot do this to Yiga'el Yadin.

Mr Yadin informed me, Begin said, that if Mr Katz is taken out of the cabinet, the DMC [as heard] will withdraw from the coalition, which means disintegration of the coalition and a serious political complication. The prime minister therefore informed the MAFDAL delegation that under no circumstances does he intend to instruct the DMC to limit its representation in the cabinet.

In reply, the MAFDAL ministers said: It is difficult for us to explain this to our party colleagues. The MAFDAL therefore deserves additional power in the cabinet. It is impossible that we should pay the price of the coalition structure. Members who were present at the meeting with the prime minister got the impression that Prime Minister Begin is firm on his position of maintaining the coalition intact and Minister Katz will therefore remain in the cabinet. The only possibility left is the appointment of MAFDAL deputy ministers. At this stage, at least, no names are mentioned and it is not yet clear if cabinet ministers are happy about appointments of deputy ministers in their ministries.

Spirits are also stormy at the moment in the Likud Liberal faction, which is convening to deal with the very same subject. Several Knesset members were indignant about leaks, especially about MK Pessah Grupper's radio remarks yesterday. This is why none of the Knesset members involved in this morning's talks, either from the MAFDAL or from the Likud, was ready to be interviewed. The situation is delicate, we were told, and its sensitivity is high.

MODA'I BERATES EHRLICH, DEMANDS TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

TA281610Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 28 Nov 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Excerpt] Here is a report we received an hour ago: Energy and Infrastructure Minister Yizhaq Moda'i declared today that he had no confidence in the finance minister and his economic policy and that this policy was a failure. He said this during a stormy debate at the meeting of the Liberal faction of the Likud on the cabinet reshuffle proposals. At the end of the debate, it was decided to demand that the prime minister give the transport protfolio to Minister Moda'i.

DISTRIBUTION OF CABINET PORTFOLIOS TERMED 'TRAGIC COMEDY'

TA300735Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Nov 78 TA

[From review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] DAVAR says that the commotion around the distribution of cabinet protfolios uncovers the coalition's weakness. The government exists in its present format mainly due to inertia. Any attempt to update the structure and composition of the government may cause its collapse and lead to political results all coalition parties would want to avoid now. However, the prime minister must urgently fill the vacant positions and also solve the problem of the Absorption Ministry. A more comprehensive and desirable reorganization is doubtful.

HAMODI'A writes that the tragic comedy around distributing the vacant cabinet portfolios joins the set of absurdities characterizing our life today. The big quarrel inside the cabinet, the exchange of personal compliments and insults and the gossip accompanying the entire affair cannot strengthen the government's credibility and, in fact, can only harm its capability to stand up to the external struggle imposed on it. Everything is learned by the outside world and our neighbors happily follow the events on the domestic front as a sign of disintegration.

NOWINY KURIER is of the opinion that everybody in the government is usually opposed to everybody else. Quite frequently this is expressed in an undignified way, but this apparently reflects the facts. This situation does not enable the prime minister to make the cabinet reshuffle he wants, according to power relations there, since if he did so he would find he has no one on whom to rely.

HISTADRUT PLANS NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST BLACK CAPITAL

TA300645Y Jerusalem POST in English 30 Nov 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv--The Histadrut plans to embark on a nationwide campaign to call attention to an estimated IL250 billion in uncollected taxes and black capital amassed in the economy during the last 15 years.

At a Tel Aviv press conference yesterday, Naftali Ben-Moshe, the chairman of the Histadrut's Committee on Taxes and a member of the Labour Federation's Central Committee, said that if no change is forthcoming in the situation, "We'll demand that workers pay taxes annually, instead of monthly, so that there's no discrimination in favour of the self-employed."

Yossi Ben-Yehuda, chairman of the Works Committee, said at the press conference, "There is great bitterness among workers over tax collection, and if there's no change soon strikes will become justified."

A Histadrut committee of economists, led by Zvi Abramov, who was also at the press conference, recently released a report showing that some 160,000 self-employed businessmen do not keep books, some 35 percent of the self-employed businessmen don't pay VAT, and that annual tax evasion reaches some IL76 billion.

At the Knesset Finance Committee meeting Monday Labour MK 'Adiel Amoray charged that undeclared income alone reaches some IL10 billion annually, which is the equivalent of some five percent of Israel's gross national product.

Abramov said that in the last 15 years some IL250 billion has been amassed in the private sector as black capital. Amoray estimated on Monday that some IL150 billion had gone unreported in the last eight years.

Ben-Moshe said that Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich had rejected Histadrut suggestions to slap tax evaders with minimal jail sentences, temporary business closures or cancellation of building licences as means to improve the government's ability to deal with the black capital problem.

During Monday's cabinet meeting, at which Ehrlich presented the proposed 1979-80 budget, the finance minister said the ministry will do its best to increase tax collection.

He said the state revenue administration would focus on income tax and VAT evasion and add 150 new collectors to the 450-person tax collection machinery.

The finance minister also said the administration plans to increase the number of files in the 1,800-case random sample of taxpayers. In a recent examination of those files, nearly all the taxpayers had declared only one-tenth of their annual income. Ben-Moshe said at the press conference that appropriate measures were not taken against those tax evaders.

TUDEH LEADER REGRETS 'NO RESPONSE' TO CALL FOR UNITED FRONT

LD291421Y Paris L'HUMANITE in French 27 Nov 78 p 10 LD

[Dominique Bari report on undated interview 'In a European Capital' with Iran Tudeh Party First Secretary Iraj Eskandari and Second Secretary N. Kianuri: "General Strike and Demonstrations"]

[Text] "In what country, tell me, has there been a strong and widespread people's movement as the one existing in Iran for the past year? From demonstrations to general strikes, from arrests to massacres, the Iranian people have rebelled ceaselessly against the dictatorship since January."

The man speaking to me has himself experienced imprisonment, trials and many years in exile. This is why my meeting with Iraj Eskandari, first secretary of the Iranian Communist Party, the Tudeh, and with Second Secretary N. Kianuri took place in a European capital.

The Tudeh has been illegal since 1949. Its militants have been hunted down, particularly since the 1953 coup. Many of them have died in prison. Some have been detained for 30 years.

"The situation in our country is unusual. The opposition movement is very broad, precisely because the despotic regime has created discontent everywhere, by means of fierce repression, wastefulness and corruption. All sectors of Iranian society, from the working class to the national bourgeoisie, apart from a fringe with connections with the court and the foreign monopolies, are opposed to the government. The latter retains its power by the use of fascist methods."

"The shah's economic policy has provoked large-scale protest strike movements over the past few months. The petit bourgeois sectors comprising craftsmen and shopkeepers have suffered from the competition of foreign products, which have invaded and destroyed the national market."

"The so-called agrarian reform of 1960 ruined thousands of peasant families, who were forced to emigrate to the cities." Before 1960, the rural population represented 80 percent of the Iranian population. At present, it forms no more than 45 percent.

"Despite strong pressure from the government and the presence of trade unions, which are all in the hands of SAVAK (the shah's police force), the working class, some of whose members have recently arrived from the countryside, has shown by its strikes that it has attained a high degree of political awareness. A secret center for trade union freedom has just been created, which demands the dismantling of SAVAK and the release of political prisoners."

"The present general strike, which affects all Iranian workers and enjoys active support from the entire population, is an important step in the fight against the dictatorship."

"Up until now, the mosques have been almost the only meeting place; hence religion's influence over the movement. However, this is definitely a deeply political movement, whose main objectives are to end the monarchy, to set up an anti-imperialist democratic regime, to respect freedoms and to send home the U.S. military advisers."

All these aspirations have put pressure on the entire clergy, whose positions reflect the people's will.

"We respect Shi'ism, the religion of the majority of the Iranian people, because we are an integral part of this people. Shi'ism has long been a national base of resistance against foreign invaders, whether Arabs or Turks. Today it is rebelling against U.S. imperialism in our country."

"This is why we have proposed, for several months now, the creation of a united front, incorporating all opposition forces. But we have received no response to our appeal to date, which we regret."

As far as the future is concerned, Iraj Eskandari believes that the movement will continue to grow. Before long, during the month of mourning of Muharram (which begins 2 December), commemorating the assassination of Imam Husayn ibn 'Ali, fresh large-scale demonstrations will take place. What will the government do then?

"The situation is extremely complex. On one hand, there is a very strong, very broad people's movement, but one which lacks well-established leadership and has no organized political party apart from the Tudeh. It has a single main objective: To overthrow the shah."

"On the other hand, there are the monarchy and the U.S. imperialists. There is no doubt that the United States is seeking a compromise, in order to restore stability in the country and safeguard its interests. But it has not yet found an alternative solution. Thus it is still gambling on the shah. It is trying to divide the movement by wooing the reformist currents. But popular pressure is too strong. Meanwhile, they are left with repression." Hence the Black Friday massacres (3,000 people killed in 1 day), martial law and the decision to resort to a military government.

"We said that overthrowing the monarchy is a common objective. But once this goal is achieved, what will happen? This is why the Tudeh proposes setting up a provisional government of national union, which could organize democratic elections in which all political parties must participate freely."

The Tudeh will support any government which guarantees freedoms, democracy and national independence. "We demand the release of all political prisoners, the dismantling of SAVAK, an end to martial law, trials for the torturers, freedom for all political parties and freedom of expression."

In the sphere of national independence, the Tudeh calls for complete reinstatement of the laws on oil nationalization and cancellation of all agreements with the imperialist monopolies and military treaties with the United States.

"In the economic and social field," the Tudeh first secretary concluded, "every step must be taken, at long last, to insure and develop the Iranian people's welfare."

EX-PRIME MINISTER SUGGESTS CIVILIAN TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT

AU241322Y Vienna Domestic Service in German 1122 GMT 24 Nov 78 AU

[Ferdinand Hennerbichler telephone dispatch from Tehran, summarizing interview granted to him by former Iranian Prime Minister Ali Amini--time not given]

[Text] Former Iranian Prime Minister Ali Amini [1961-62] believes in the great national compromise, which could still save Iran from civil war, from chaos. As Amini told me in an interview, the only solution would be if all sides were now to recognize the constitution of 1906--in other words, if the shah were to confine himself more or less to representative functions and leave governing to the politicians.

As far as the opposition was concerned, it could not be expected to suddenly lose face and make a turnabout, declaring that it had not been so serious after all with its appeals for the overthrow of the shah and monarchy. But--Amini appealed--the opposition leaders should now, only for a few months, be quiet, refrain from any incendiary statements, and they should make it possible, initially, for the military to withdraw from the political scene and then for a civilian transitional government to be established. This civilian transitional government, according to Amini's ideas and as has also been confirmed by Prime Minister Azhari--should come to power in Iran by the end of this year, and then free elections should be called by this civilian transitional cabinet. This civilian transitional cabinet should have no other task than this, should not take any political actions and the free elections should then be held by next summer at the latest, but if possible even in 6 months.

Amini said that one must not harbor any illusions; naturally these elections by the middle of next year would not be free elections as conceived by Western democraces. But one could proceed from the premise that the influential politicians in Iran will endeavor to insure that these elections, from an international viewpoint, would be relatively free. And after such free elections he, personally, would also be ready to seek the prime minister's office in Iran. Amini told me quite plainly that the next government to be installed after the army [government] in Iran will be a government in which he will not participate. Thus, it will not be an Amini cabinet, nor that of any other, possibly moderate political figure of the opposition--the political opposition or the religious leaders. This government should consist only of compromise candidates, who are unknown to the public at present, who have very limited and strictly defined tasks, and who have not gained any political status in the past. He, personally--he said--was ready to offer his services as adviser to this civilian transitional cabinet, but he was only ready to seek the prime minister's office after free elections.

In the interview, he made clear to me that one of the reasons he was not particularly anxious to return to politics at present was the fact that he did not want to burn his fingers with the corruption. He added that he did not have the impression that it would be currently possible to restore the administration's proper functioning. And finally, he said that he was enough of a realist to see that the opposition at the moment could not recognize him, personally, as a potential compromise candidate, who would be able to lead Iran out of its deep crisis.

On the question of religion's influence in Iran, he made it clear that he had always been of the opinion--and this opinion has now also been generally accepted in domestic policy--that religious leaders in Iran had better focus more attention on religious affairs in future and should stop trying to engage in political activities in Iran.

Another question: Criticism of the shah and criticism of the regime. In our talk, Amini criticized the shah, he also criticized the monarchy, and what the Pahlavi dynasty has made of it in Iran--namely, what it has made of the 1906 constitution. He said that it was a fact that in the past few decades the shah had exercised power oppressively, forgetting that the Iranian Constitution of 1906 provides for separation of powers. However, Amini said that the shah should now be given another chance, and that he should not be driven out of the country.

Summing up, the former Iranian prime minister said that he was convinced that the army was now ready to withdraw from politics before the end of the year, and that he believed that a transitional government would have a chance to hold free elections. From such free elections, he continued, those forces could emerge which could then, in disputes and discussions, eventually work out a national compromise.

And only under these conditions, and on the basis of the 1906 constitution, can there be a future for Iran. This would mean that the shah abdicates politically, the opposition puts up with the monarchy, and the radicals disappear from the political scene in the long run, so as to prevent chaos, a civil war.

AZHARI MEETS WITH TRANSPORTATION UNION DELEGATES

LD292126Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Some 100 delegates from the taxi-truck drivers union met Prime Minister Gen Gholam Reza Azhari at his office this afternoon. At the outset of the meeting, one of the delegates spoke about the pro-Shah and pro-Iran sentiments of this union and said: We believe in the constitution and also understand the country's present situation and know that today's Iran will escape from the great trouble besetting it, thanks to the unity of the people. He said: Mr Prime Minister, you have put bringing about security at the head of your program of action. We, therefore, request that you bring about possibilities for bazaars and schools to open as soon as possible and so that we may be engaged in earning our living and doing business. He said: In wishing the shahanshah health, we request the great ayatollahs and the ulema of the true religion of Islam to inform the people about the dangers which a continuation of the present state of affairs may bring about in depriving them of tranquillity, freedom, and its consequences to their economy and the country's fate. He then informed the prime minister of the union's demands in medical insurance and housing and added: Please issue instructions so that, henceforth, taxi-truck badges may be issued through the union and so that attention may be paid to the conditions of shanty dwellers in southern Tehran.

Prime Minister Gen Gholam Reza Azhari then said: The country's present situation, as you most decidedly note, is normal; and I have repeatedly said that the realm's enemies have imposed a cold war on us and that this has been done in such a way that, by sowing discord and launching an onslaught against the people's minds, they have brought about a fraying of nerves and a disturbance of public opinion. With the people's help, the guidance of the religious community, and thanks to the duty carried out by every member of the Iranian nation, I hope that efforts can be made so that each one of us may, in one way or another, draw our compatriots' attention to the country's current conditions, in order to prevent the enemy from inflicting any more harm on us. The prime minister added: Through many long years action was taken to weaken the cause of religion--the existence of which is a cause of happiness and good fortune for every society and person--in society and among the people; as a result, a person who does not possess religious beliefs naturally does not think of other people and does things which culminate in harming the people and the realm.

The prime minister said: When an electricity worker goes slow or procrastinates, as a result of which power is switched off, what problems would this power cut bring about for a doctor at the operating table, or women and children who might be travelling or who might be stuck inside an elevator, or you yourselves, who are engaged in driving?:

The prime minister said: I am greatly attached to the Iranian working class, which is hard-working. Here I do not mean those few individuals who surface in certain organizations and who, because of their divorce from religion, do not carry out their duties and do not realize what harm this may be doing to their compatriots, coreligionists and the country.

We should endeavor to return the country's security to what it used to be, particularly through paying increasing attention to religious teachings and tenets. We shoul have full respect for the ulema of the true religion so that, God Almighty willing, existing problems may disappear. Pertaining to the demands of the union of taxi-truck drivers, the prime minister said: Communicate your demands to the prime ministry in writing. In conclusion, the prime minister said: About these demands, may I frankly and truthfully say that regarding those that can be fulfilled at present, I will issue instructions for carrying them out with pleasure.

TEHRAN REPORTS CREATION OF INSPECTORATE AT SENATE SESSION

LD291954Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The justice minister presented the bill to the Senate for setting up the All-State Inspectorate Organization and for dissolving the Imperial Inspectorate Organization and the bill for recalling pensioned judges and those who have resigned from their judicial services. The All-State Inspectorate Organization undertakes to investigate the proper course of affairs and to uncover improper financial and administrative occurences in ministries, municipalities and government or government-affiliated institutions.

During today's open Senate session, the Justice Commission's report on lifting immunity from Senator 'Ali Reza'i was approved and the facts were communicated to the Justice Ministry. In this report, Senator 'Ali Reza'i is accused of 11 instances of betraying trust, participating in and initiating fraud.

Also during today's Senate session, Senator Hoseyn Daha, referring to the list carrying the names of a number of the realm's personalities as exporters of currency from the country, said: This is aimed solely at undermining the people's confidence in banks and dealing a blow to the foundation of the realm's economy. Ahmad Nazemi, minister of state for parliamentary affairs, emphasized that the government is paying full attention to investigation of the published list. He said: A delegation has been entrusted by the Tehran public prosecutor's office to investigate the list, a report on which shall be presented to the senate.

Tehran's public prosecutor announced that investigation of books, documents and proofs from the Central Bank of Iran pertaining to the transfer abroad of appreciable sums of currency had already begun by a delegation of judges from Tehran's public prosecutor's office. The National Consultative Assembly will have an open session tomorrow, during which six bills will be debated.

CENTRAL BANK CURRENCY EXPORT TO BE INVESTIGATED

LD291758Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD

[Summary] Tehran Public Prosecutor Hashemi told our correspondent that as of today, a delegation of Tehran public prosecution officials will start an investigation into currency export by the Iran Central Bank. The officials will also investigate the bank's files and documents. Hashemi said that the investigation committee will continue its work morning and afternoon and will investigate each item that appeared in a statement attributed to the Iran Central Bank Workers Association. Hashemi requests all compatriots to contact the officials directly or to telephone 312593 with any information that they may have.

Bank Governor Denies Justification

LD291458Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Following the publication of a list of names of persons who have recently taken large amounts of currency out of the country, Mr Mo'tamedi Shirazi, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran, has told a Voice of Iran correspondent that in view of the fact that the list mentions names of people who have long been dead, and in view of the disproportion of the total of the figures referred to, when compared to the level of transfer of noncommercial currency through the banking system during the 2-month period in question, the absence of a justification for the said list is totally obvious.

He also explained that the Central Bank of Iran does not sell currency directly to individuals. Until 14 November this year, when a new circular was issued on the transfer of currency, the Central Bank of Iran had been putting noncommercial currency at the disposal of four main banks, acting as agents for the Central Bank of Iran. These four banks had been selling the noncommercial currency to its customers and to other banks. The deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran said that, during the months of August and September, the total sale of noncommercial currency by this bank through the banking system has been about 1 billion rials [as heard] out of which about 70 to 80 percent has been spent on import of services and current public requirements.

He pointed out at the end of the interview that from March to November this year, the total sale of noncommercial currency by the Central Bank of Iran through the banking system has been $2.5 billion.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN MASHHAD ON ARMS, EQUIPMENT FOUND

LD291842Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Communique No 23 of the Military Governorate of Mashhad and District was published today as follows:

In the past few days, thanks to the vigilance and efforts of officers, arms, equipment and antipatriotic evidence were captured from individuals who outwardly appeared to be Iranians, but deep down were bloodthirsty criminals. And it is obvious that these arms and equipment were not obtained to safeguard the realm, the nation and the honorable faith, but that the final goal was bloodshed, assassination and terror. Since these investigations have not yet reached their conclusion the arrested culprits' names will be withheld, but after conclusion of the court's work and the rendering of its verdict, they will be made public through radio and television for the benefit of the entire Moslem people of Iran. On the other hand, since such criminals attempt to enlist collaborators and other dupes, apart from themselves, all honorable parents and patriotic and truth-loving people are therefore advised and requested to keep an eye on such criminal individuals, who are constantly lying in wait for our youth, and moreover, every noble-spirited Iranian is dutybound to strive to the death to safeguard this country and land and not to be deceived by these blackhearted people.

The following were captured: 7 sidearms, 23 handgrenades, 2 large trench knives, 1 knuckle-duster with dagger attachment, 1 documents photocopying machine, 1 duplicating maching, 3 taperecorders, an appreciable quantity of antipatriotic statements and publications, and 80 rounds of ammunition of various calibers.

[Signed] The Military Governor of Mashhad and District.

AFGHANISTAN

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING APPROVES PROPOSALS

LDT 291238Y Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 20 Nov 78 LD

[Summary] A meeting of the Council of Ministers has been held under Taraki's chairmanship. Taraki gave a report on the internal and international situation, and Commerce Minister Ghorbandi reported on his visits to Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Then the Council of Ministers began to discuss proposals by various ministries and government departments and took the following decisions:

"In accordance with the proposal of the Ministry of Commerce, it was decided that the [word indistinct] slaughterhouse should be (?subsidized) by the government for the export of meat. Similarly, the Ministry of Commerce was allowed to commit 100 Afghanis as a commission for [word indistinct] of the export of raisins, and it was decided that the government should pay two Afghanis more than the free market rate for every (?dollar) of the exported raisins. The proposal of the Ministry of Public Works for the (?transfer) of 200 million Afghanis from the (?total) development budget of the Ministry for the Capital [words indistinct] of the [word indistinct] (?construction) unit was approved.

"The Council of Ministers approved that all the construction units of the various ministries except the Helmand construction unit and the Ministry of Defense construction unit should be acceded to the Ministry of Public Works.

"On the basis of the proposal of the Ministry of Defense, it was approved that the Ministry of Finance should put $5.5 million at the disposal of the Ministry of Defense for the purchase of construction material.

"On the proposal of the Ministry of Planning Affairs, it was decided that the Afghanistan Bank make $286,500 available for the Ministry of Mines and Industries for the purchase of the equipment for Herat (?cement) and other industrial projects of the province.

"The Council of Ministers approved that the population census [word indistinct] together with its budget and personnel should be acceded to the central (?census) office of the Ministry of Planning Affairs."

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS CUBA NONALINED COUNTRY

LDT 292222Y Kabul Domestic Service in Pushtu 1530 GMT 9 Nov 78 LD

[Interview granted by Afghan Foreign Minister Hafizollah Amin to FRG journalist Dr Clauss at the Foreign Ministry on 2 November--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Question: The FRG is exploring the possibility of writing off all its loans to Afghanistan. If my information is correct, these loans amount to 2 billion Afghanis. Is is your wish that other donor countries should also follow this move by the FRG, including, of course, the USSR and its allies?

Answer: This depends on the friendly countries. But we do wish for this kind of assistance to be rendered to us, and we hope that all friendly countries will do so; why not?

Question: When I return to my country, my compatriots may ask me whether the FRG will continue its aid to Afghanistan under its Khalqi regime. I would say that I am for it; but it would help me if you could say something in my support.

Answer: My reason would be: Why not? Why should you ignore Afghanistan while you give aid to other countries? The government and the people of the FRG must know and believe that our Khalqi regime will spend all the assistance it has obtained only for its people and their welfare. I say this with full confidence and conviction that not a penny of this money will go to the pocket of any individual nor will it be transferred to anyone's account within or outside the country.

I hope that this aid will not remain as it is now but be appropriately expanded. The aim of assistance by the FRG and other friendly countries ought to be helping the hard-working and suffering people of Afghanistan.

Question: Could you please throw light on the term nonalinement--it basically seems to mean that the nonalined countries will not be alined to either of the two superpowers. I am glad you say that Afghanistan is a nonalined country. In the meantime, you regard Cuba as nonalined. If the word nonalinement has any meaning, then Cuba is not nonalined, for it is very much alined with the USSR. Do you not think that putting Afghanistan in one and the same category with Cuba (?undermines the significance of your statement) that Afghanistan is nonalined?

Answer: I disagree with you on this. The nonalined movement ought not to be misinterpreted.

But I disagree with your judgment about Cuba's being linked with the USSR. If you consider its internal socialist order and conclude that Cuba is alined, then we may say that there is no nonalined country in the world.

One country's economic and technical cooperation with a major country ought not to be regarded as alinement with the latter--if one did so, one would not be able to find a nonalined country in the world. Heroic Cuba is not only nonalined, but believes in the principles of nonalinement in practical terms, and while having in view the principles of the nonalined movement, it not only supports the liberation movements of various peoples and nations in the world, but has (?accelerated) them with its unreserved help.

INDIA

DESAI REPLIES TO QUESTIONS ON U.S. URANIUM SUPPLIES

BK300917Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that India is not bending before anybody or bartering away the sovereignty of the country by agreeing to the appointment of the joint committee of the scientists of India and the United States to evolve safeguards to achieve nuclear nonproliferation.

Replying to questions in the Rajya Sabha today, Mr Morarji Desai clarified that the committee is not for inspection of nuclear establishments. He said he has not agreed for inspection of nuclear establishments in India by anybody.

The prime minister said India will try to find out alternatives if the U.S. Government violates the agreement regarding the supply of the next consignment of nuclear fuel for the Tarapore atomic powerplant. He said the question of timely supply of the next consignment is still pending with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to whom a favorable recommendation had been sent by the American administration.

Mr. Desai told the house that he has expressed his unhappiness to the United States over the delay in the supply of nuclear fuel and has also conveyed that the American legislation banning the supply of nuclear fuel is nothing but ultra vires of its agreement with India.

Replying to another question, Mr Desai said that several localities with good indication of uranium mineral have been found in the country. Evaluation of the deposits in Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka is in progress.

DESAI TURNS DOWN DEMAND TO INVESTIGATE JAGUAR DEAL

BK291600Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has turned down an opposition demand in the Lok Sabha for the appointment of a parliamentary committee to examine the Jaguar deal, describing the allegations in this regard as lies.

Mr Morarji Desai was making a brief intervention at the end of the hour-long discussion on the merits of the Jaguar deal raised by Mr Chitta Basu, Forward bloc. The prime minister, who was watching the debate silently, got up in the end and said the demand for a parliamentary committee is fantastic.

Shortly before that, the defense minister described as forgery and fraud a letter published by a Delhi magazine purportedly to have been written by him to an official of the British Aerospace Corporation. Amidst applause from the Janata benches, he read out a message from the British firm that such a letter was never received by it.

About the publication by the same magazine of a so-called interview with one of the test pilots who had flown the plane, Mr Jagjivan Ram pointed out that all the three pilots have denied having given it.

He asserted that the Jaguar was selected for the air force because of its superiority as a strike aircraft. The decision was taken after two expert teams had made a comparative study in totality of the three aircraft under consideration.

Referring to the demand that the reports of the experts committee should be placed on the table of the house, Mr Jagjivan Ram said it will not be in the public interest to do so. However, he offered to give to anyone personally information he would like to have.

The minister of state for defense production, Prof Sher Singh, told the house that there was a difference of millions of rupees in the cost of the Jaguar and the Mirage planes and the deal had been made keeping in view this economic aspect.

SOVIET OFFICIAL DISCUSSES INDIAN STEEL PLANT WITH MINISTER PATNAIK

BK300941Y Delhi ISI in English 0842 GMT 30 Nov 78 BK

[Text] Members of the visiting Soviet economic delegation led by N.N. Inozemtsev, deputy chairman of the State Planning Committee of the USSR, called on Biju Patnaik, union minister for steel and mines, in New Delhi on November 29. Finalisation of arrangements for the new steel plant at Visakharatnam in Andhra Pradesh figured in the discussions.

It was mentioned that the Soviet experts who had visited the plant site recently had found both the location and available port facilities to be good for the speedy implementation of the shore-based project. Patnaik urged that the time limit for the completion of the 1 million tonne capacity plant be set at 42 months from the date of signing the agreement on cooperation.

Joint participation in third country projects was also discussed.

MINISTER KUNDU REASSERTS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

BK300933Y Delhi ISI in English 0856 GMT 30 Nov 78 BK

[Text] India has reiterated that no durable solution of the west Asia conflict can be envisaged without recognising the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab lands, reports AIR [All-India Radio].

Minister of State for External Affairs Samarendra Kundu said at a function organised in New Delhi on November 29 to mark the Palestine day that the implementation of the Security Council's resolution and a comprehensive solution acceptable to all parties are the only way to resolve the problem for all times.

SRI LANKA

LOCAL ELECTIONS POSTPONED DUE TO CYCLONE EFFECTS

BK291545Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0700 GMT 29 Nov 78 BK

[Text] Colombo Nov 29 (AFP)--Elections to local bodies in Sri Lanka fixed for January have been postponed following the devastation caused by last week's cyclone.

The decision to postpone the elections to 10 municipal councils and 33 urban councils was taken by the government in consultation with opposition political parties.

Party leaders agreed that priority should be given to relief and rehabilitation work following the cyclone.

They authorised the government to fix new dates for the elections after consulting a committee of party leaders appointed to co-ordinate relief work.

The parliamentary co-ordinating committee presided over by the Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa includes several government ministers, Mr Appapillai Amirthalingam, leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front who is also leader of the opposition, and Mr Maithripala Senanayake, deputy leader of Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike's Freedom Party.

Troops assisted by government agencies and voluntary organisations backed by foreign aid continued a massive operation to provide relief and to rehabilitate more than 1 million people affected by the cyclone.

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